FBIS DAILY REPORT

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'ARAFAT RECEIVES UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM

JN171604Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1500 GMT 17 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, met with Dr Kurt Waldheim, UN secretary general, at 1500 today. The meeting was attended by brother Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department.

Following the meeting an official spokesman of the PLO stated the following: Brother Abu 'Ammar affirmed to Dr Waldheim the PLO's readiness to help the United Nations perform its task of supervising the total withdrawal of Israeli troops from southern Lebanon. Brother leader Abu 'Ammar also stressed to Dr Waldheim the PLO's concern for the fraternal and struggling relations between the Palestinian revolution and Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis and Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, arising from our desire to consolidate the march of peace and from our full respect for the Lebanese authority and its legitimate and representative constitutional institutions.

The UN secretary general arrived at brother leader Abu 'Ammar's headquarters at 1445 and was received by brother Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department. A detachment of the Palestinian armed struggle gave a salute to the UN secretary general. Brother Abu 'Ammar then received him in his office, where a meeting was held between them which lasted until 1610 today.

The UN secretary general arrived in Beirut at 0930 today. Immediately after arrival Waldheim presided over a meeting of the staff commanders of the UN interim force which is positioned in southern Lebanon. The staff commanders briefed him on maps which show the positions where they are stationed and the impediments and obstacles they have faced so far. The commanders of the UN force also briefed him on some of the positions from which the Zionist forces have withdrawn as part of the two-stage partial withdrawal plan announced by Israel last week.

Following the meeting the UN secretary general stated to journalists that the aim of his visit is to discuss with all parties concerned the complete implementation of Security Council Resolution No 425. He added that he will travel to the Zionist entity this evening or tomorrow and that his talks with the Zionist leaders will focus on the comprehensive and speedy withdrawal of Zionist troops from southern Lebanon. He added that the withdrawal carried out so far is only the beginning.

AN-NAHAR Report

NC181001Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0937 GMT 18 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 18 April--The Lebanese paper AN-NAHAR reports today that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat informed a number of the resistance forces commanders that during their meeting in Beirut yesterday Waldheim asked that a number of the UN forces officers be permitted to take positions in Ash-Shaqif Castle and Arsun center to supervise the cease-fire. The paper adds that 'Arafat promised Waldheim to study this question with the central council of the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and that he agreed in principle to the stationing of UN forces officers in these positions to supervise the situation.

Last night 'Arafat held a series of meetings with a number of resistance commanders. The meetings lasted until midnight and 'Arafat told those present what had taken place during his meeting with Waldheim.

It is worthwhile mentioning that Ash-Shaqif Castle is an old Crusader castle in the eastern sector of southern Lebanon. It was the scene of the most violent battles during the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon. The Israeli forces failed to take control of this castle. Arnun township is considered an important strategic center for the Palestinian resistance.

AN-NAHAR further says that Waldheim told 'Arafat that the Lebanese authorities have decided to increase the number of the Lebanese internal security forces in the south, particularly in the areas evacuated by the Israelis.

On the other hand, Al-'AMAL, the organ of the Phalangist Party, says that the UN secretary general proposed to the senior Lebanese officials that Lebanon officially participate in a tripartite committee which the United Nations suggested be formed from its own representatives and representatives from Lebanon and Israel to supervise the Israeli withdrawal from the south. AL-'AMAL says that the Lebanese side promised to study the proposal and expressed no objection to it in principle.

ABU IYAD SPEAKS AT 14 APRIL RALLY IN BEIRUT

JN151855Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT 15 Apr 78 JN

[Text] A rally was held in Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir Hall at the Arab University of Beirut yesterday afternoon on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the al-Khalisa operation [presumably Qiryat Shemona school operation]. The rally was attended by Abu Iyad, Fatah Central Committee member, and several leaders and cadres of the Palestinian revolution and of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement.

Brother Abu Iyad delivered a speech at the rally. He said: The occupation of southern Lebanon has proved the Lebanese and Palestinian people's ability to confront all capitulationists. It has also given us the ability to say that a heroic handful of fighters managed to stand in the face of a wild offensive by more than 30,000 soldiers and to delay the advance of the enemy 8 whole days, whereas several Arab armies, unfortunately, collapsed before the Zionist enemy in 6 hours. He added that whenever the political decision is sound, clear and surrounded by high spirits, the masses can fight and heroes can demonstrate their heroism.

Regarding Resolution 425, he said: This resolution will be added to thousands of unimplemented resolutions. The partial Israeli withdrawal is like that of someone who withdraws from the slope to the mountain and thus controls both the mountain and the plain.

He then explained that we are now in the last phase of the conspiracy. The conspiracy in this country is not confined to Lebanon. Anyone who imagines it to be confined to Lebanon is mistaken. We should deal with it on this basis.

Regarding the isolationist stand, Abu Iyad said: Since the entry of the deterrent forces 2 years ago, they have not stopped denouncing us, communism and leftists. All this has been linked with the Zionist occupation which was to come. They felt their day had arrived [words indistinct] and they let those Syrian soldiers get killed in the streets.

Abu Iyad warned that the hostile schemes are aimed at Syria, Iraq and any other Arab country where nationalist voices rise. He said: To those who say that facilitating the task of the UN interim force will guarantee an Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon, we say that the Israelis will not withdraw except when they feel the territories in the south shaking under their feet.

PALESTINIANS MIGHT FORM ARMY IN LEBANON

JN160827Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Apr 78 p 13 JN

[Text] The newspaper AL-MANAR, published in London, yesterday reported that the Palestinian resistance command has proposed to the Lebanese side an equitable formula on the Palestinian presence in Lebanon in the aftermath of the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon.

The paper stated that the Palestinian resistance command had proposed to Lebanon that the Palestinian military forces in the Lebanese arena be transformed into an army [tajyish], that this army be considered anally of the Lebanese Army, and that an understanding be reached with the Lebanese authorities on where to place the Palestinian army, its training camps and movements.

The paper further said that the Palestinian resistance command has pledged to refrain from any military action against Israel from southern Lebanon. It also guaranteed it will cancel all armed manifestations in the cities and help the Lebanese authorities punish those who violate this guarantee.

AL-MANAR says: In exchange for this, the Palestinian resistance wants to keep Beirut as the center for its political and information activity and to protect Palestinian fighters and their weapons.

PALESTINIANS CLAIM RESPONSIBILITY FOR QALANDIYAH BUS ATTACK

JN161719Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT 16 Apr 78 JN

[Text] At 1000 today our Palestinian revolutionaries used incendiary bombs to attack one of the buses of the Zionist Dan company while it was transporting enemy soldiers near Qalandiyah north of occupied Jerusalem. The bus was hit directly and fire broke out inside it, wounding an unspecified number of the enemy military personnel who were on the bus. The enemy radio admitted the operation in its Hebrew news bulletin at noon today and said that four soliders were wounded. Zionist security forces are combing the area in search of our revolutionaries, who returned safely to base.

OPEC MEETING POSTPONED TO 6 MAY IN SAUDI ARABIA

JN161058Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1019 GMT 16 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 16 April--INA has learned that the unofficial meeting of OPEC oil ministers will be held in At-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, on 6 May. The meeting had been scheduled to be held in Geneva on 4 May, but a decision postponing the meeting was adopted earlier this month. The meeting was called following the drop in the exchange rates of the U.S. dollar and the repercussions this drop had on the purchasing power of the OPEC countries' oil revenues.

STEADFAST FRONT INFORMATION MINISTERS BEGIN CONFERENCE

LD171622Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 17 Apr 78 LD

[Excerpt] Algiers--The conference of information ministers of the Arab steadfast and confrontation front countries opened here at the Hotel Aurassi this morning under the chairmanship of Redha Malek, Algerian minister of information and culture, and in the presence of delegations from the attending countries. The conference delegates represent Algeria, Libya, the PDRY and the PLO.

Algerian Minister's Speech

LD171914Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 17 Apr 78 LD

[Speech by Algerian Information Minister Redha Malek at opening meeting of conference of information ministers of front of steadfastness and confrontation states in Algiers on 17 April--recorded]

[Excerpts] Brothers, information ministers of the national front of steadfastness and confrontation, gentlemen: It is a great honor to welcome you to the soil of Algeria, which is playing host to our conference. This conference is being held to implement the resolutions of the summit conference in Algiers and the conference of foreign and defense ministers of the front recently held in Damascus.

At this historic stage, which is witnessing the disappearance of empires and the triumph of the nations' right to self-determination, the Arab nation must confront in the heart of the Mediterranean and in this last quarter of the 20th century an extensive operation based on wholesale extermination and on neocolonialist invasion. This operation not only threatens the national gains of the peoples of the area but also endangers the process of decolonization. Thus Zionism is nothing but one ferocious form of imperialism. It functions for its own benefit and for the benefit of international imperialism. Throughout a period of 30 years, its plan has continued to aim at expansion of the territory it occupies by exhausting the energies of Arab resistance. As a result of this, occupied Arab territory was turned into settlement colonies after Israel executed a fait accompli, and the indigenous population of this territory was made destitute and a mere subject of occupation.

Likewise, Southern Lebanon has fallen as a tasty morsel to Zionist greed, which long had designs on it; and this is in addition to Gaza, the West Bank, the Golan Heights and Sinai. Israel is not a small threatened country, nor is it a state like any other state. Its ambition does not stop at its neighbors' recognition of it; it wants to establish a new empire in the area. It follows the colonialism of bygone days. It tries to impose its law on the entire Arab east, ignoring national sovereignty and flouting international rights and codes. Indeed, it behaves toward some of the states in the area as if they were real protectorates.

Whatever the deadly temporary effect Zionist victories may have on the Arab nation, they will not shake our nation's faith in itself or harm its determination. Right is on the side of the Arab nation. The Arab nation has geographical position, manpower and material resources. It enjoys the solidarity of the Third World, to which it belongs. It also has the friendship and support of the socialist countries and the sympathy of the democratic forces in the world which appreciate its issues.

Brothers, the balance of forces in the Middle East conflict will not remain as it is. It can be shifted and it will inevitably develop in favor of the dear cause. Consequently, we must always condition our thoughts and actions to this positive attitude and to the vast possibilities it provides in all fields. Before we acquire arms, our battle against the Zionist occupier requires a firm will and a morale capable of steadfastness in the fact of peril. As in any long drawn-out battle, it requires conviction and principle. So that this struggle is strong and ambitious, it must not tolerate defeatists or listen to their pleas. However, there is a more deadly danger than the danger which exists in the form of Israel--the danger of weakening morale which may emerge as a result of retreating on principles.

There is no argument about the fact that that path which the Egyptian leadership has followed since the journey to Jerusalem has opened a breach unprecedented in the Arab liberation struggle. As a result of this journey, Egypt lost its confrontation position without receiving anything tangible in return, and this is admitted even by those who made the journey. This led to a new blow being dealt to the unity of joint Arab action.

The truth is that the Arab homeland today finds itself confronting two lines fully in opposition to one another: The first represents retreat, which directly leads to a surrender to Israel's will and the orders of its imperialist allies; the second line represents the resistance through which the Arab nation affirms its will to remain firm and steadfast until victory. Our nations from the Arab Gulf to the Atlantic Ocean have adopted their clear stand. This choice which adopted as the basis for the program of the countries of the national front of steadfastness and confrontation.

Peace in the Middle East does not lie in surrender, nor can it be achieved by giving certificates of approval to Israel or through humiliating concessions. Also, dialog for the sake of dialog is no more than an illusion and [words indistinct]. Real peace requires a struggle based on clear principles and precise concepts. It also calls on us not to misunderstand the nature of the enemy or belittle [passage indistinct].

The Palestinian people's struggle must not be a bargaining chip. This struggle decides not only the existence of this people but also the destiny of the entire Arab nation. All maneuvers which seek to sacrifice the Palestinian resistance and its vanguard organization--the PLO--are linked to a shortsighted policy which is doomed to failure. Therefore, the unity of the Arab nation in confronting the imperialist-Zionist conspiracy is a vital matter.

Although there are two lines, there are also two forms of unity. They are the unity that bases itself on opportunism and advocates surrender, and in itself represents a serious danger to the safety of the territories of the Arab nation; and the unity that bases itself on struggle and principles which bypass interim differences and calls for action through sacrifices. This is the unity that concerns us because it responds to the deep aspirations of our people. The Arab nations, like all other nations which find it imperative to realize lofty aims, prefer sacrifice with dignity to deceiving prosperity in the shadow of a false peace.

Brothers, this conference must find the practical means to insure realization of the aims defined by the national front of steadfastness and confrontation. Through the necessary mobilization, means and efficiency, it is possible to strengthen our front and foil the imperialist-Zionist plot and show the dangers of capitulationist policy for the independence of the Third World countries and international peace. Furthermore, our conference must define new ways to bring about real Arab solidarity and a military unity capable of confronting the imminent dangers which the Arab nation must confront.

AN-NAHAR SAYS PFLP LEADER HABASH VISITING CUBA

JN180939Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 18 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 18 April--The newspaper AN-NAHAR reports today that George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], is currently visiting the Cuban capital of Havana at an official invitation from the Cuban Government. The paper says that two members of the PFLP Political Bureau, Bassam Abu Sharif and Taysir Qubb'ah, are accompanying Dr Habash on this visit.

The paper says that the PFLP delegation may visit Moscow after the visit to the Cuban capital.

DEATH OF FATAH DISSIDENT LEADER DENIED

JN160931Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0855 GMT 16 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 16 April--Well-informed sources have affirmed that Palestinian official Abu Sa'id is currently under treatment in a hospital in Damascus, contrary to reports which said that he had died in an ambush in Lebanon. The Kuwaiti magazine AL-YAQZAH reports today that Abu Sa'id, a member of the Fatah movement, broke away from the movement and formed a new movement calling it Revolutionary Fatah [Fatah ath-Thawrah].

Abu Sa'id had been accused of attempting to assassinate Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and hijack an Arab airliner last summer.

PALESTINIANS IN LIBYA FOR AVIATION TRAINING

JN160727Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Apr 78 p 1 JN

[Text] The newspaper AL-MANAR, published in London, reported in its issue yesterday that the Palestinian resistance has sent a number of its elements to Libya for a 1-year aviation training course.

AL-MANAR further stated that most of the volunteers are university graduates. The Palestinian national liberation movement, Fatah, has in the past sent a number of its elements to Algeria for a similar course.

KUWAITI PAPER SAYS PLO TO JOIN JORDANIAN COUNCIL

JN181040Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1012 GMT 18 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 18 April--Major consultations are currently taking place between Jordan and the PLO for the participation of 30 Palestinian personalities in the new Jordanian national consultative council. This was noted in the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN here today in a report from Beirut.

The paper says that a number of Palestinians from the Palestinian Central Council who reside in Jordan, including Ibrahim Bakr, Yasir 'Amru and Ibrahim al-Barghuthi, are expected to join the council as PLO representatives.

The paper further reports that Jordan contacted the PLO to explain the nature of the call made by Jordanian monarch King Husayn to his government to form the new consultative council on the grounds that it will act for the parliament, which was dissolved after the Rabat summit conference in 1974.

GULF ANTIPOLLUTION CONFERENCE BEGINS 15 APRIL

JN141102Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1024 GMT 14 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 14 April--The conference on the protection of the marine environment in the gulf will begin its meetings tomorrow, Saturday, in Kuwait to discuss a draft agreement proposed by the Kuwaiti Government on the protection of the marine environment in the region from pollution and on the determination of the sources of pollution.

The draft agreement provides for the establishment of a followup regional organization to carry out the conference's decisions and to draw up the necessary plans for combating pollution. The member gulf states shall also take the necessary measures to protect their shores and marine life from the danger of pollution.

BAHRAIN

JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED ON AL-GHANI'S VISIT

JN151623Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1450 GMT 15 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Manama, 15 April--At the invitation of His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister of Bahrain, Mr 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, Command Council member and YAR prime minister, paid a visit on 13-15 April to Bahrain at the head of an official delegation. The YAR prime minister and the delegation accompanying him were received at the airport by his highness the prime minister, ministers, senior state officials, Bahraini citizens and a number of persons from the Yemeni community in Bahrain.

The guest met with Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah and handed him a letter from Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, Command Council chairman and commander in chief of the YAR armed forces. The letter contains an invitation to his highness to visit the YAR as well as the YAR's views on the current Arab situation and the need to restore Arab solidarity to its former and proper state.

Official talks were held between the two sides in an atmosphere of brotherhood and understanding. The two sides reviewed bilateral relations and emphasized the need to develop these relations and promote cooperation in the interests of the common aims and aspirations of the people in both countries.

The two sides discussed the Arab and international situations and reiterated their desire to continue the endeavors to achieve further progress and prosperity for the Arab nation. Both sides affirmed the importance of supporting and backing the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and their struggle. Both sides condemned the attempts aimed at further harming the Palestinian people and at destroying their Arab character. Both sides strongly condemned the recent Israeli aggression against Lebanon.

On the efforts aimed at finding an acceptable formula concerning the Middle East crisis, both sides affirmed their support for [word indistinct] joint efforts and condemned the [word indistinct] stands which only serve the enemies of the Arab nation. The two sides also discussed the issue of security in the Red Sea, the gulf and East Africa. Both sides praised the positive results of the visit.

Mr 'Abd al-Ghani expressed his deep thanks for the cordiality and hospitality accorded him and the members of his delegation in Bahrain. Both sides stressed the importance of continued contacts among officials from the two fraternal states.

The YAR prime minister extended an invitation to his highness the Bahraini prime minister to visit the YAR. His highness gratefully accepted the invitation and said he would visit the YAR in the near future.

YAR PREMIER AL-GHANI COMMENTS ON TALKS

JN160929Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0845 GMT 16 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Manama, 16 April--'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, Command Council member and prime minister of the YAR, has stressed the strong relations linking Bahrain and the YAR. He described these relations as being good and strengthening every day.

In an interview with the Bahraini newspaper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ, published today, 'Abd al-Ghani stated that his talks with the Bahraini officials were successful and fruitful and that the two sides agreed on all issues discussed.

In reply to a question about the 5-year plan in his country, the YAR prime minister explained that this was the first plan of its kind in the YAR. It consists of investing 16 billion Yemeni rials, of which 50 percent will be financed by the private sector.

On the call for the convening of an Arab summit conference, 'Abd al-Ghani stressed the importance of convening such a conference. He added: We believe that its convening will restore Arab solidarity to its previous state. He also affirmed that the YAR will be a member of the Arab solidarity committee presided over by Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri.

RULER LEAVES ON PRIVATE VISIT TO EUROPE

JN171025Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Manama, 17 April--Bahraini Ruler Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah left Manama for Europe this morning on a private visit of several days. The ruler was seen off by Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Crown Prince and Defense Minister Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, and high ranking officials.

The ruler is accompanied by his sons Shaykhs Muhammad, 'Ali and 'Abdallah; Bahraini Prime Minister's Advisor Mahmud Ahmad al-'Alawi; Bahraini Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chairman Muhammad Yusuf Jalal; and a number of aides.

KUWAIT

MINISTER REPORTS ON REGULAR CABINET MEETING

LD161753Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Apr 78 LD

[Excerpts] The cabinet held its regular weekly meeting this morning under the chairmanship of Heir Apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah. Jasim al-Marzuq, minister of education and acting minister of state for cabinet affairs, told the press following the meeting that the cabinet began its work by reviewing the message received by the ruler from King Husayn of Jordan.

In this message the king explains the conditions through which the Arab nation is passing and the efforts being exerted to unify the ranks to strengthen the Arab position.

After that, the minister added, the cabinet read the cable received by the ruler from (?Osman Saleh Sabbe's) secretary general of the Eritrean Liberation Front, in which he explains the conditions through which the Eritrean revolution is passing and the preparations by Ethiopia and other foreign powers to strike at the revolution of the Eritrean people.

The minister also said that the cabinet discussed the minutes of the meetings of the Higher Petroleum Council held yesterday under the chairmanship of the heir apparent and prime minister and approved the recommendations it had formulated. Most important of these recommendations is one providing for the merger of the Al-Wafrah Oil Company with the Kuwait Oil Company and the Kuwaiti National Petroleum Company. The operations of the Al-Wafrah Oil Company will be shared as follows:

The Kuwaiti Oil Company will undertake production, maintenance and pumping operations.

The Kuwaiti National Petroleum Company will undertake marketing and refining operations.

Employees, technicians and management staff of the Al-Wafrah Oil Company will be taken over by the two above-mentioned companies.

SAUDI ARABIA

PAKISTAN'S MARTIAL LAW CHIEF ARRIVES IN RIYADH

JN161458Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 16 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 16 April--His Excellency Muhammad Ziaul Haq, chief martial law administrator of Pakistan, arrived in Riyadh at 1700 today on a visit of several days to the kingdom. His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz was at the head of those who received him at the airport.

Received by King Khalid

JN171202Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0950 GMT 17 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 17 April--At 1115 today a meeting was held between King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and Pakistani Martial Law Chief Gen Mohammed Ziaul Haq at the royal Al-Ma'dhar Palace. Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister Amir Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and Second Deputy Prime Minister and National Guard Commander Amir 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz attended the meeting.

Haq Makes Statement

JN171524Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1325 GMT 17 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 17 April--His Excellency Gen Muhammad Ziaul Haq, Pakistani chief martial law administrator, has expressed his pleasure at the results of his talks with His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and the officials in the kingdom. In a statement to SNA, his excellency said that the talks between the two sides dealt with bilateral relations and fields of cooperation between the two countries. He praised the place the kingdom occupies in the hearts of the Moslems, which is one of leadership in the Islamic world. Regarding this, he said that the Moslems face Kaaba in their prayers and look upon the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as the leader of the Islamic world.

Received by Prince Fahd

LD172034Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister, held a meeting with Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, chief martial law administrator of Pakistan, at 1915 at An-Nasiriyah Palace. In this meeting Crown Prince Fahd and Gen Ziaul Haq discussed matters of interest to both the kingdom and Pakistan.

Prince Fahd Comments

JN172041Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 2025 GMT 17 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 17 April--His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister, has affirmed that the meeting between His Excellency Gen Muhammad Ziaul Haq, Pakistani chief martial law administrator, and His Exalted Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz was extremely important and beneficial for both countries and for Arab and Islamic issues.

In a statement to reporters this evening following his 2-hour meeting with His Excellency Gen Ziaul Haq, His Highness Prince Fahd said that relations between the kingdom and Pakistan are not something new because they are old and continuous relations. Replying to a question on his highness' opinion regarding His Excellency Gen Ziaul Haq's efforts to restore stability in Pakistan, in light of his excellency's review during the talks, His Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz said: I trust that our meetings were extremely important because matters were placed in their right perspective. As long as Gen Ziaul Haq and his colleagues are in power there, stability in Pakistan will become permanent. This gives us pleasure here in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

U.S. OFFICIAL MEETS WITH COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER

JN161052Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0939 GMT 16 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 16 April--His Excellency Shaykh Husayn Ibrahim al-Mansuri, minister of communications, received in his office today Chester Davenport, U.S. assistant secretary for policy, plans and international affairs of the Department of Transportation, and the delegation accompanying him. During the meeting the discussions revolved around the scope of cooperation between the two countries for the implementation of road projects in the kingdom.

Received by Finance Minister

JN161141Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1100 GMT 16 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 16 April--His Excellency Shaykh Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy, today received Chester Davenport, U.S. assistant secretary for policy, plans and international affairs in the Department of Transportation, who is currently visiting the kingdom. During the meeting cooperation between the two countries was discussed.

DEFENSE OFFICIAL RECEIVES U.S. DEFENSE DELEGATION

LD162306Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Prince Turki ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy defense and aviation minister, this afternoon received General Ernest Griffiths, assistant director of the National Security Agency of the U.S. Defense Department, and the accompanying delegation.

The meeting was attended by General 'Uthman al-Hamid, chief of the General Staff, and by a number of officers of the armed forces. Topics connected with the development of the Saudi armed forces were discussed during the meeting. The American official has been on a visit to kingdom since last week.

Oil Minister Meets Delegation

JN161419Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1310 GMT 16 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 16 April--Oil Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki al-Yamani today received Dr Ahmad Khan, executive director of the (Leonedo) International Organization, who is currently visiting the kingdom. He also received the delegation of the U.S. national war college. The delegation arrived in Riyadh yesterday as a part of its tour of a number of Arab states with the aim of collecting information on oil policy. Shaykh al-Yamani explained to the delegation members the dimensions of Saudi Arabia's policy in the fields of oil and energy.

UAE

UAE, YAR FOREIGN MINISTERS STRESS SOLIDARITY

JN161102Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0956 GMT 16 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 16 April--Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi, foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates, has stated that the talks held this morning between delegations of the UAE and the YAR dealt with the general Arab situation and the need to intensify efforts to restore Arab solidarity. As-Suwaydi stressed that viewpoints were identical about the need for an Arab meeting at this delicate stage through which the Arab nation is passing. As-Suwaydi added that the talks also dealt with bilateral relations and the necessity of strengthening them in all spheres.

On the other hand, 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, the YAR foreign minister, explained following the talks that it has been decided to exert joint efforts to reunite Arab ranks to face the dangers threatening the Arab nation, especially as the two countries are members of the Arab solidarity committee. A joint press statement on the talks between the two countries is expected to be issued tomorrow morning, Monday.

YAR PRIME MINISTER BEGINS TALKS WITH OFFICIALS

JN160944Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0858 GMT 16 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 16 April--Official talks between the UAE, headed by Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad Al Nuhayyan, and the YAR, headed by 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, YAR Command Council member and prime minister, began in Abu Dhabi this morning. The talks dealt with the strengthening of relations between the two countries in the economic fields, as well as with a review of the current Arab situation, the efforts being exerted to restore Arab solidarity and the YAR's call for an Arab summit conference. The YAR prime minister's visit to the UAE comes as part of a current tour of several states in the area.

Al-Ghani Delivers Message

JN161832Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, Command Council member and prime minister, and the members of the delegation accompanying him met this morning with UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

During the meeting they exchanged views on the current Arab situation and on bilateral relations and the means to develop them. The SABA' NEWS AGENCY has learned that the Command Council member and the prime minister conveyed a written message to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan from his brother Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, chairman of the Command Council and commander in chief of the armed forces, dealing with bilateral relations and the developments in the current Arab situation.

Holds Press Conference

JN162056Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 2015 GMT 16 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 16 April--'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, YAR prime minister, has asserted that his tour of a number of the gulf states has been successful and that its results have been positive regarding all issues discussed with the officials in these states both on the bilateral and pan-Arab levels.

In a press conference here this evening, 'Abd al-Ghani stressed the need for an Arab meeting and for a dialog among the Arab kings and presidents because of the serious circumstances through which the Arab nation is passing. He warned against continued Arab divisions and said this would make the Arab nations easy prey for their primary enemy, Israel. This, he added, will also entice Israel to continue its intransigence, its occupation of additional Arab land and its spilling of Arab blood.

The YAR prime minister praised the leading role the UAE is playing for the sake of championing pan-Arab issues. He pointed out that His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan handed him a reply addressed to Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghasmi, chairman of the Command Council.

He added that he conveyed to His Highness Shaykh Zayid the results of his contacts in the countries he visited and that they also spoke about pan-Arab issues of concern to the states of the gulf and the Arab Peninsula.

Departs, Makes Statement

JN171030Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0925 GMT 17 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 17 April--YAR Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani this morning left Abu Dhabi for San'a' at the end of his 3-day visit to the UAE, thus concluding his tour of a number of Arab countries in the gulf area.

In a statement made before his departure, the YAR prime minister affirmed the success of talks held in the UAE and added that he had found good response among the brothers in the UAE and that the viewpoints were in harmony concerning all the bilateral and pan-Arab issues discussed.

The YAR prime minister further said that he was briefed on the efforts the UAE is exerting for the unity of the Arab ranks and for restoring Arab solidarity and that his country appreciates and highly values the great role the UAE is playing.

Answering a question on the YAR's concept for eliminating current Arab disputes, the YAR prime minister said that the meeting of all the Arabs will not mean forcing anyone to make specific concessions because this important meeting is dictated by the current grave phase through which the Arab nation is passing and the perils surrounding this nation.

On the question of convening a summit conference by the Arab countries of the Red Sea littoral area, the YAR prime minister said: The call for convening this conference still stands and efforts are being exerted to reach an understanding with the countries concerned to prepare for such a conference.

The YAR prime minister added: This conference hopes to achieve mutual cooperation among these countries with a view to exploiting the Red Sea riches in the interest of development plans. This is in addition to the keenness of the littoral countries to keep this area out of the international struggle so that they can enjoy peace and security and devote themselves to development and reconstruction.

Joint Statement Issued

JN1715llY San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Apr 78 JN

[Text of joint statement issued 17 April on YAR Prime Minister 'Abd al-Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani's 15-17 April visit to the UAE]

[Text] At an invitation from his brother UAE Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Maktum ibn Rashid Al Maktum, His Excellency brother 'Abd al-Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, YAR Command Council member and prime minister, paid a visit to the UAE from 15 to 17 April 1978, leading a high-ranking delegation.

The dear guest was received at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad Al Nuhayyan, ministers, senior officials, diplomatic missions and large throngs of Yemeni people who are residing in the UAE.

The Command Council member and prime minister met with UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and handed him a message from his brother Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghasmi, YAR Command Council chairman and the commander in chief of the armed forces. The message includes an invitation to his highness to visit his second homeland, the YAR. Tne message also deals with current Arab relations and the need to exert intensified efforts to revive the spirit of Arab solidarity and to strengthen the Arab nation's stand to face all the dangers surrounding it.

Intensified negotiations were held between the two sides in an atmosphere of Arab fraternity and common understanding. The two sides expressed their full satisfaction with the relations between the two fraternal countries. They stressed their determination to develop and consolidate these relations.

The two sides agreed to exchange visits of officials. They also agreed to form a joint ministerial committee for coordination in the various fields of cooperation. The committee will meet twice a year in San'a' and Abu Dhabi.

The two sides also stressed their true wish to cooperate completely to eliminate the differences that prevail in the general Arab situation.

The two sides expressed their vehement denunciation of the evil Zionist agression against the Lebanese territory and the Palestinian people. This is considered an extension of the expansionist Zionist policy that rejects an overall and just peace in the area.

Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani expressed his deep gratitude for the hospitality and warm welcome accorded him. He praised the progress and achievements attained by the UAE under its wise leadership.

ELF REPRESENTATIVE IN BAGHDAD BRINGS MESSAGE

JN162029Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1945 GMT 16 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 16 April--Muhammad 'Umar Yahya, representative of the Eritrean Liberation Front [ELF] in Baghdad, arrived here this evening at the head of a delegation on a 3-day visit to the UAE, during which he will deliver a letter to His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, from Ahmad Nasir, chairman of the Revolutionary Council of the Eritrean Front Executive Committee.

Yahya stated that he will hold talks with UAE officials on the current situation in Eritrea and the means to confront Ethiopian troop concentrations preparing to launch an attack on Eritrea.

YEMEN--PDRY

CUBAN DELEGATES ATTEND PROVINCIAL MEETING

LD170004Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Apr 78 LD/EA

[Text] Brother Fadl Muhammad 'Abd ar-Rabb, candidate member of the United Political Organization-National Front [UPONF] Central Committee and deputy head of the Popular Defense Committees Organization chaired yesterday in the town of Al-Hawtah and enlarged meeting of the Secretariat of the Second Governorate of the Popular Defense and heads of the provincial and district committees. The meeting discussed the work and activities of the organization in the Second Governorate and the difficulties they face in implementing the plans of the organization. The committee also heard a detailed report from the Cuban mission working with the organization which attended the meeting about the activities of the organization in the Second Governorate.

Brother Fadl Muhammad 'Abd ar-Rabb stressed the need to further the work of the Popular Defense Committees Organization [words indistinct] through the assistance of the various government institutions to implement its tasks and mass preparation by widespread [word indistinct] for the vanguard party and the celebration of the 15th anniversary of the revolution and the elections to the Supreme Peoples Council.

Brother Fadl Muhammad 'Abd ar-Rabb also stressed the need for the leadership of the Popular Defense Committees Organization and its basic units to make full preparations to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the founding of the organization, which falls on 30th May, this year. The meeting was also attended by brother Salih Alawi Muhsin, secretary for administration, organization and guidance, and brother Numan Hasan 'Ali, secretary for political and ideological work at the Secretariat of the National Popular Defense Command.

GDR EDUCATION MINISTER ARRIVES FOR TALKS

LD142146Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Apr 78 LD/EA

[Excerpts] Prof Hans-Joachim (Kboehme), member of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and minister for university and technical education of the GDR, arrived in Aden this morning at the head of an educational delegation on a 6-day visit to Democratic Yemen at the invitation of the brother minister of education. The GDR minister for university and technical education expressed his pleasure at visiting Democratic Yemen. In a statement to the ADEN NEWS AGENCY, he said that his visit will help him promote cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

VANCE STOPS OVER IN CAIRO, CONFERS WITH KAMIL

NC180124Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0015 GMT 18 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 17 April--U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance arrived in Cairo from Salisbury tonight en route to Moscow. He was received at the airport by Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil, Egyptian Ambassador to the United States Dr Ashraf Ghurbal and U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Hermann Eilts.

The talks between the two sides began following the arrival of the U S. secretary of state at 0130.

The talks continued for about 1 hour after which the U S. secretary of state refused to make any statement. He then boarded a plane for London, where he will spend 1 day attending CENTO meetings. He will then leave London for Moscow.

Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil stated that the discussions dealt with developments in the Middle East situation and efforts exerted to achieve a comprehensive and just settlement in the area.

He said that the U.S. roving ambassador to the Middle East, Alfred Atherton, will come to Cairo on Friday to start his task of getting the Middle East peace process moving.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil added that the discussions also dealt with the necessity of Israel's immediate withdrawal from southern Lebanon and with the results of the U.S. secretary of state's mission in Salisbury.

EGYPT WELCOMES 21 APRIL ATHERTON VISIT

NC171622Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Apr 78 NC

[Text] The U.S. Government has decided to again send its roving ambassador, Alfred Atherton, to the Middle East as part of the efforts the United States is exerting with the parties concerned in order to get the peace process moving.

The Egyptian Government welcomes Alfred Atherton's visit. Mr Atherton is expected to arrive in Cairo on 21 April in order to hold talks with Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil. Atherton will then leave Cairo for Israel and from there for the United States.

DR AL-QAYSUNI LEAVES FOR MEDICAL TESTS IN U.S.

NC181009Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0948 GMT 18 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 18 April--Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Dr 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Qaysuni left Cairo this morning for the United States for a visit of several days to undergo medical tests.

AMBASSADOR GHURBAL LEAVES CAIRO FOR WASHINGTON

NC181104Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0942 GMT 18 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 18 April--Egyptian Ambassador in Washington Dr Ashraf Ghurbal left Cairo for Washington today following a 3-week visit to Egypt.

In a predeparture statement, Dr Ghurbal said that he is carrying a letter from President as-Sadat to President Carter in reply to the letter President Carter had sent to President as-Sadat.

Concerning the situation in the Middle East, Dr Ghurbal said that the ball is now in Israel's court and also in the U.S. court. If Israel has not shown any flexibility yet, the United States, which is a partner, is trying to prevent the peace process from becoming a stalemate. It is anxious to give momentum to the peace process so that it can achieve positive results in the near future.

Dr Ghurbal added: We appreciate the role of the United States as a partner in the process of establishing peace. The local reaction in Israel, which is intensifying day by day, will ultimately influence the Israeli Government's position. The Israeli Government cannot long ignore the reaction in the world, particularly in the United States and among Jews of the United States, in addition to the increasing discontent in Israel with the present intransigent attitude of the Begin government.

Dr Ghurbal said: In the consultations which I held during my stay in Cairo, the president, the vice president and the foreign minister provided me with the necessary instructions. I will return to my post to continue the necessary efforts to push forward the wheel of peace.

UN AMBASSADOR CRITICIZES ISRAEL'S STAND

NC151045Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 15 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Egypt's chief UN delegate, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, has stated that it is still premature for the Middle East talks to be transferred to the United Nations as requested by UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim. In an interview with the U.S. National Broadcasting Company, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said it is necessary for Israeli leaders to note the drop in U.S. public support for Israel. This is evident from the decline in pro-Israel demonstrations, which shows that Americans no longer condone Israel's aggressive and intransigent position.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid called on Israel's leaders to note the change which has taken place in U.S. public opinion and adopt a moderate and reasonable position toward the peace talks.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid also noted the seriousness inherent in the continued operations by oil companies in the occupied areas of Sinai and the Gulf of Suez. He described this as a violation of international law for which these companies will bear the consequences.

COORDINATION SOUGHT ON FINANCING UN FORCES IN LEBANON

NC180601Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2323 GMT 17 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 17 April--In Tuesday's issue the newspaper AL-AHRAM says that Egypt has contacted its UN chief delegate, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, and a number of UN member states to coordinate their stands before the UN General Assembly convenes on Thursday to discuss the financing of the UN emergency forces in southern Lebanon and Israel's procrastination in withdrawing from there.

PAPERS COMMENT ON ISRAELI CLARIFICATION ON 242

AL-AHRAM Discounts 'Concession'

NC180600Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2310 GMT 17 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 17 April--The Tuesday issue of the newspaper AL-AHRAM says that Israel has embarked on an extensive diplomatic campaign to propagandize its so-called acceptance of Resolution 242 and has asked the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv to contact the Arab states concerned--Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan--to ascertain their suggestions on the interpretation and application of Resolution 242. The paper says that Israel has tried to insinuate that its acceptance of the resolution is tantamount to an improvement in the Israeli stand and that its agreement to apply this resolution on all the fronts is tantamount to an Israeli concession. This comes at a time when Egyptian diplomatic circles emphasize the following facts:

1. Israel has declared its acceptance of Resolution 242. It had previously made such a declaration in its reply to Gunnar Jarring on 2 April 1969, but 9 years later, in April 1978, it declared that its acceptance of the resolution is linked to granting self-rule to the West Bank and Gaza. This is taken to mean that Israel refuses to apply the text of the resolution to the West Bank and Gaza and refuses to withdraw from those two places.

2. Resolution 242 stipulates that, according to the UN Charter, it is impermissible to acquire land by war. This necessarily requires Israel to recognize the principle of the impermissibility of occupying land by force.

3. Israel is trying to avoid implementing Resolution 425-- which calls for immediate withdrawal from Lebanon--by linking this withdrawal to a final settlement of the Middle East problem, whereas Resolution 242 has been issued to nullify Israel's aggression against three Arab states--Egypt, Syria and Jordan.

4. Egypt has presented its proposals on the bases and principles of a comprehensive solution of the Middle East problem and has asked Israel to define its concept of the Palestinian people's cause and their right to self-determination.

AL-JUMHURIYAH: Nothing New

NC180707Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 18 Apr 78 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH criticizes the Israeli cabinet's statement issued 2 days ago on Israel's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 242. AL-JUMHURIYAH says: The decisionmakers in Israel are greatly mistaken if they believe that the Middle East crisis, with all its complicated humanitarian and political dimensions and with all its historic background, can be solved by using the policy of playing on words. The latest Israeli offer, or what it imagines it has offered, in terms of contributing to a peaceful settlement is the statement issued 2 days ago by the Israeli cabinet announcing that Israel accept Security Council Resolution 242 as a basis for negotiations. This is nothing new at all. The statement then affirms that Israel insists on the establishment of self-rule in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

News agencies have described the Israeli cabinet statement as ambiguous. The Israeli opposition Labor Party has described the statement as merely playing on words. The Arab side engaged in the peace efforts cannot help but describe this statement as a step which spells out nothing new and which will return the problem to the whirlpool of deception, contradiction and complication.

AS-SADAT INSPECTS ALUMINUM COMPLEX IN NAJ' HAMMADI

NC171636Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpts] President Anwar as-Sadat inspected the new aluminum complex in Naj' Hammadi this morning. The president was received on arrival by head of the presidential office Hasan Kamil; Industry Minister 'Izz ad-Din Hilal, Qina Governor Maj Gen 'Abd al-Hafiz al-Baquri, and popular and executive leaders in the governorate.

The president inspected the various parts of the complex and the aluminum production units. When the inspection was over, President as-Sadat said: I was very pleased to note that many of the workers in the complex had fought in the glorious October war. Today they are waging the battle for Egypt's prosperity. This complex has been built according to the most modern technological specifications in the world in order to rebuild Egypt.

The president said: We began to build this gigantic complex when we were preparing for the October 1973 war. It was completed on schedule. Approximately 100 million pounds had been invested in it and its production amounted to some 80 million pounds last year. This self-contained complex is considered an oasis in the desert. It is because of all this that I was very anxious to see this great structure. All groups in Egypt should be well aware that their sons after them will be secure, that all of us in Egypt are one family and that anyone who accomplishes a great task for the family will be looked after by the state and the president himself will be his guardian.

Leaves for Red Sea Governorate

NC181312Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Apr 78 NC

[Text] President Anwar as-Sadat delivered a short speech at the end of the political rally which was held at the Sawhaj Governorate building today. President as-Sadat said that he will not forget the sentiments the people of Sawhaj expressed toward him. President as-Sadat said that he will discuss with the prime minister all the requests he has heard and that, as he said yesterday, he will give priority to development projects in the Upper Egypt governorates. President as-Sadat concluded his speech by praying Almighty God to fulfill our aims.

President as-Sadat then left the Sawhaj Governorate for the Red Sea Governorate, concluding his visit to Upper Egypt.

BRIEFS

VATICAN DELEGATION--A Vatican delegation led by (Sergio Bendoli), head of the secretariat general for non-Christian affairs, has arrived in Cairo from Rome on a 4-day visit to Egypt for a dialog with representatives of Al-Azhar and the Ministry of Awqaf within the framework of the dialog between the Vatican and the Islamic world. [Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Apr 78 NC]

JAPANESE COMPANY SIGNS AGREEMENT ON NATURAL GAS

JN160940Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0914 GMT 16 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 16 April--Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, Revolution Command Council member and oil minister, and the director general of a Japanese company signed here today an agreement for preparation of the necessary plans and drawings for a project to extract and purify natural gas from the north.

The project, one of three for the exploitation of natural gas, with the first two already underway in southern Iraq, aims at fully exploiting the quantities of natural gas produced in the northern oilfields.

Upon completion, the new project will have an annual output of more than 1 million tons of liquid gas for local consumption and export, in addition to approximately 423,000 tons of pure sulfur per year. The project is expected to be completed in 45 months.

IRANIAN EXPORT OFFICE TO BE ESTABLISHED IN BAGHDAD

LD121451Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0300 GMT 12 Apr 78 LD

[Text] The Government of Iraq has agreed to the establishment of an Iranian Export Board office in Baghdad. During the visit by Mr Khalatbari, the foreign minister, to Baghdad last year the Iranian and Iraqi delegations held talks about the expansion of trade relations between the two countries and following these talks the Government of Iraq has declared its agreement to the establishment of an Iranian export office in Iraq.

SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM SIGNED WITH YUGOSLAVIA

JN161145Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1109 GMT 16 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 16 April--Iraq and Yugoslavia signed here today a scientific and technical cooperation program for 1978-79. The program covers the exchange of information and cooperation in planning, civil engineering, agriculture, forestry, the ship building industry and the training of cadres.

According to the program, Iraqi students have been allotted a number of seats in Yugoslav universities and higher educational institutes.

IRAQ WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN DELEGATION TO U.S.

JN151208Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1014 GMT 15 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 15 April--The General Federation of Iraqi Chambers of Commerce has stated that it will not participate in the delegation of Arab chambers of commerce scheduled to begin a visit to the United States tomorrow.

Qazim al-Mahidi, secretary general of the federation, stated that the Iraqi delegation had previously stressed its reservations about the decision adopted by the Arab chambers of commerce in their meeting held in Amman last month. Al-Mahidi noted that sending such a delegation at this particular time would be considered a gesture of support for the capitulation efforts being exerted by imperialist and Zionist circles and by Arab reaction, which is involved with them.

The Arab chambers of commerce delegation will leave for the United States tomorrow to meet with U.S. President Jimmy Carter, as well as with the secretaries of state, treasury and commerce. The delegation is made up of 120 members including Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade of the Syrian regime.

CUBAN, IRAQI WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS SIGN AGREEMENT

FL171846Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Apr 78 FL

[Text] The Iraqi and Cuban women's organizations have agreed to develop and strengthen their friendly relations based on their joint struggle against imperialism, colonialism, racism and racial discrimination. This is stated in a cooperation agreement signed in Baghdad between the Federation of Cuban Women [FMC] and the General Federation of Iraqi Women. The document was signed on the occasion of the visit to that Arab country by a FMC delegation headed by Vilma Espin, member of the PCC Central Committee and Council of State.

Cuban Leader Leaves

JN151439Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 15 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 15 April--Vilma Espin, member of the Cuban State Council and of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Federation of Cuban Women, has described her talks with the Iraqi officials as positive and fruitful. In a statement before her departure today, Vilma Espin said that her talks with Iraqi officials dealt with the means to develop political, economic and social cooperation between the two countries and to consolidate their joint struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

FINANCE MINISTER LEAVES FOR RIYADH, KUWAIT, ABU DHABI

JN171123Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 17 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 17 April--Finance Minister Dr Fawzi al-Qaysi left Baghdad at noon today to participate in three Arab meetings to be held successively in Riyadh, Kuwait and Abu Dhabi.

The first meeting pertains to the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, scheduled to be held the day after tomorrow. It will discuss the bank's activities during the past year and its role in supporting development in Africa. It will also elect a new board of directors. The second meeting pertains to the Arab Fund for Economic Development. It will discuss means of consolidating financial resources for the fund so that it can participate effectively in financing joint Arab-Qatari development projects. The third meeting pertains to the Arab Monetary Fund following its establishment last year. The agenda of this meeting will center on consolidating executive procedures and bylaws so that the fund can commence its work in granting short-term loans to Arab countries which suffer a temporary deficit in their balance of payments.

Iraq contributes 10 percent of the capital of the Arab Monetary Fund, which amounts to 250 million Arab accounting dinars [dinar 'arabi hisabi].

AGRICULTURE UNDER SECRETARY LEAVES FOR PRC

JN151424Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT 15 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 15 April--'Amir Mahdi Salih, under secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, left for Peking today leading a delegation on an official visit of several days to the PRC. The delegation will hold talks with PRC officials on developing bilateral cooperation and exchanging expertise in the agricultural domain. The delegation will also study agricultural experience and agricultural cooperatives in the PRC.

SAUDI DEFENSE MINISTER ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN171044Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1025 GMT 17 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 17 April--His Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi minister of defense and aviation, arrived in Baghdad at noon today at the invitation of Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah, RCC member and defense minister. The Saudi guest was accorded an official reception at Baghdad International Airport. He was received by RCC Member and Defense Minister 'Adnan Khayrallah, Foreign Minister Under Secretary 'Abd al-Husayn al-Jamali, the chief of staff, and the commander of the air force and air defense.

In a statement to INA, Prince Sultan expressed his pleasure at visiting Iraq. He said: I am pleased to visit my second country, fraternal Iraq. It is a precious opportunity to visit this country and we are proud of this country, its people and history, Prince Sultan added.

Prince Sultan said: I am confident that this visit will achieve everything serving the fateful Arab issues at this stage. He said that his talks in Baghdad will center on consolidating cooperation.

Prince Sultan is accompanied in this 3-day visit by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Shaykh 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Mansuri.

Meets With Defense Minister

JN171726Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 17 April--Iraqi Defense Minister Staff Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah held a meeting here tonight with Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia. The meeting was attended on the Iraqi side by 'Abd al-Husayn al-Jamali, the Foreign Ministry under secretary, and a number of officials. It was attended on the Saudi side by Shaykh 'Abd ar-Rahman Mansuri, the Foreign Ministry under secretary, and the members of the delegation accompanying Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

ALGERIAN ENVOY DELIVERS MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT

JN151107Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 15 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 15 April--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr has received a message from Algerian President Houari Boumediene dealing with the current Arab situation. The message was delivered by 'Abd al-Hamid al-Mahdi, President Boumediene's special envoy, when he was received by President al-Bakr today. During the meeting, Iraqi-Algerian relations and the means to strengthen them in the service of the Arab nation were discussed. The meeting was attended by Hamid 'Alwan, minister of state for foreign affairs. The Algerian envoy arrived here Thursday evening.

Concludes Visit

JN171203Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 17 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 17 April--'Abd al-Hamid Mahri, the personal envoy of Algerian President Houari Boumediene, left Baghdad at noon today. Mahri stated that he conveyed a message to President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr from Algerian President Houari Boumediene. He was also briefed on President al-Bakr's valuable ideas regarding Iraq's position on the current Arab and international situation.

Mahri expressed his hope that the consultation between Iraq and Algeria will continue to confront the circumstances through which the Arab nation is passing, to achieve an identity of views and to work for the interest of the Arab nation.

FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES ON 4-DAY VISIT

JN171936Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1905 GMT 17 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 17 April--Paavo Vayrynen, Finnish minister of foreign affairs and foreign trade, arrived here tonight leading a delegation on a 4-day visit to Iraq. Vayrynen told INA that he will hold talks with Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi aimed at bolstering economic and trade cooperation relations between the two countries. The talks will also deal with the current international situation. He was received at the airport by Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi.

DANISH HOUSING MINISTER DISCUSSES COOPERATION

JN160936Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0818 GMT 16 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 16 April--Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and minister of public works and housing, held a meeting here today with Ove Hove, Denmark's minister of housing, to discuss cooperation in construction between Iraq and Denmark. During the meeting, the discussion revolved around ways to develop technology in construction in Iraq andmethods of implementation and ways to speed them up. The two sides expressed their desire to develop joint cooperation in this sphere.

Hove stressed that he sees various opportunities for cooperation involving plants for prefabricated houses, the exchange of technical expertise, and research centers. He said further that his country is seeking to open the door wider for joint cooperation in the light of the cordial relations existing between the two countries.

The meeting was attended by the members of the Danish delegation accompanying Hove.

The Danish minister arrived here last Friday.

INTERIOR MINISTER VISITS 1ST ARMY IN NORTH

JN171033Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 17 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Kirkuk, 17 April--RCC Member and Interior Minister 'Izzat Ibrahim has asserted that the Iraqi armed forces are now undergoing improvements which are in harmony with current developments in modern armies. This came during Ibrahim's visit to the 1st Army command as a representative of President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr.

'Izzat Ibrahim added that this progress comes in preparation for the great tasks in the national and pan-Arab arenas.

He said: It is difficult for us as a party and revolution to achieve our sublime objectives without using our revolutionary strike and represented by the armed forces which are now exerting constructive efforts in the process of change and cultural construction in Iraq.

TEXT OF NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL LAW

JN172108Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Apr 78 JN

[Text of Provisional Law of National Consultative Council in Jordan as ratified by royal decree on 17 April 1978--read by announcer]

[Text] We, Husayn the First, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan,

Under Paragraph 1 of Article 94 of the constitution, and in accordance with the decision of the Council of Ministers on 16 April 1978, hereby ratify under Article 31 of the constitution the following provisional law and order that it be published, promulgated provisionally and added to the state laws, provided that it is presented to the National Council during its first meeting.

Provisional Law of 1978--National Consultative Council Law:

Article 1: This law shall be cited as "National Consultative Council Law of 1978" and shall come into force as of the date of its publication in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

Article 2: The following words shall have the meanings defined hereunder unless the context indicates otherwise.

The council: the National Consultative Council formed under this law;

The speakers: the chairman of the National Consultative Council;

The member: the council member, who could be a man or a woman.

Article 3: A. A council shall be formed in the kingdom under the name of the National Consultative Council. The council shall be composed of 60 members who shall be appointed by royal decree in accordance with the recommendation of the prime minister. The king shall appoint a speaker for the council from among its members.

B. Taking into consideration the provisions of Article 4 of this law, council members shall be chosen on the basis of their competence and loyalty to the homeland, nation and constitution.

Article 4: A. To be appointed council member, the candidate must be Jordanian; must have reached the age of 30; must not have been declared bankrupt nor lost his corporate status under the law; must not have been convicted of a crime, an offense or misdemeanor, nor be quarantined, insane or idiotic; and he must not be a government official obtaining his salary from public funds, including municipalities.

B. It is impermissible to combine membership in the council and membership in the Senate.

Article 5: A. The council shall serve for a period of 2 years, at the end of which it shall be reformed under the provisions of this law. The king has the right to dissolve the council at any time and to dismiss any member or to accept his resignation from the council.

B. The council shall be considered lawfully dissolved when the House of Representatives [al-Majlis an-Niyabi] is elected and convened.

Article 6: Council members shall take the following oath before assuming office in the council: I swear to God Almighty that I shall be loyal to the homeland and the king, preserve the constitution, serve the nation and perform my duty faithfully and honestly.

Article 7: The council shall assume the following powers:

A. Study and debate all bills and give its opinion and advice on them to the Council of Ministers prior to their approval. The bills shall be referred to the council by the prime minister;

B. Give its opinion and advice to the Council of ministers on drafting any bill or recommending the cancellation or amendment of any of the existing laws;

C. Give its opinion and advice to the Council of Ministers on matters pertaining to state general policy at the request of the prime minister or under a decision by the council;

D. Give its opinion and advice to the Council of Ministers on matters pertaining to public services and utilities. In realization of this aim, each council member has the right to question the competent ministers on any relevant matter.

Article 8: Each member has the full right to speak up and express his opinion within the limits of the topic under discussion in the council and under the provisions of the council's bylaws. It is impermissible to take the member to task for any opinion he expresses during the council's sessions.

Article 9: A. The council shall hold its sessions at the request of its speaker, or the deputy speaker in the absence of the former, at the place and time determined by him, provided this is communicated to the prime minister and the ministers, who shall have the right to attend the council's sessions and to participate in its debates.

B. The council sessions shall be public. It is permissible to convene council sessions at the request of the government or under a decision by the council.

C. The prime minister may request that the speaker call a special session of the council provided it is convened within 1 week from the date of the request.

Article 10: A. A council session shall be considered to have achieved quorum if it is attended by two-thirds of its members, at least at the opening of the session; after that, the session shall be considered to have achieved quorum if it is attended by an absolute majority of the members.

B. The council shall issue its recommendations through the unanimous or majority vote of the members present and express its opinion on the matters presented to it. In case of a tie, the speaker shall cast the deciding vote.

Article 11: The council shall form the following committees from among its members by election: A) the Legal Committee; B) the Financial and Administrative Committee; C) the Foreign Affairs Committee; D) the Social and Educational Committee and E) any other committee it may deem essential. A member may not be elected to more than two committees.

Article 12: The council's office shall consist of the speaker and his two deputies, who shall be elected from among the members during the meeting of the council. It is impermissible to combine the post of minister and membership in the council's office.

Article 13: A. The speaker represents the council before all other organizations and quarters and speaks on its behalf, taking into consideration the provisions of this law and the council's bylaws.

In addition to the other powers vested in him under this law and the guideline issued thereunder, the speaker shall have the following powers:

1. Open the council's sessions and announce their expiration or adjournament.

2. Determine the topics to be discussed during the council's session, determine the scope of the discussion, run and regulate the discussions and give permission to speak during these discussions;

3. Announce the council's recommendations;

4. Observe the work of the council's Secretariat, supervise its administrative work and issue the necessary guidelines for their organization;

5. Preserve law and order in the council and take the necessary measures for that;

B. The speaker shall exercise the powers of a competent minister. He shall also be considered a certified disburser on council matters pertaining to financial affairs, procurement, transfer and travel. Government ordinances pertaining to these affairs shall be applied; the prime minister's approval shall be otained on matters which are not provided for the those ordinances.

C. The council members shall be remunerated as approved by the Council of Ministers. It is permissible to combine these remunerations with retirement annuity. It is impermissible to combine these remunerations with those of the minister.

Article 14: A. The speaker may participate in the council's debates, provided he gives up the chairmanship of the session during his participation in the debate.

B. The first deputy speaker shall preside over the session in the absence of the speaker, or during his participation in the council debate. The second deputy speaker shall preside over the session in the absence of the speaker and his first deputy speaker, or during their participation in the council debate. In the absence of the speaker and his two deputies, or during their participation in the council debate, the council shall be presided over by the most senior member.

C. The council's Secretariat shall supervise the writing of the council's minutes and the recording and following up of the election or voting operations taking place in the council.

Article 15: A. The council's bylaws shall specify the number of members in each committee, the procedure of their election and the method they should use to conduct their work. The bylaws shall also set out the bases for organizing, calling and running the council's session and other such organizational and administrative rules as shall insure the proper functioning of the council.

B. Until the council's bylaws are issued, the council may pursue its own rules, regulations and procedures provided they do not conflict with the provisions of this law. However, the council must draw up its bylaws within a period of not less than 3 months from its first session.

Article 16: The council shall have an administrative staff. Their posts shall be included in the government's wage scale. They shall be appointed in the same manner and by the same rules as government employees. They shall enjoy all their legal rights. For the purposes of the implementation of this article, the speaker shall exercise the powers of a minister. The council's secretary shall exercise the powers of an under secretary.

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Article 17: The council shall draw up the bylaws it deems necessary for implementing the provisions of this law and refer them to the Council of Ministers for approval. The Council of Ministers shall, in turn, refer them to the king for ratification.

Article 18: The prime minister and the ministers are entrusted with implementing the provisions of this law.

HUSAYN OUTLINES POLICY TO U.S. WAR COLLEGE DELEGATION

JN171709Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1540 GMT 17 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 17 April--His Majesty King Husayn, the supreme commander of the Jordanian armed forces, this afternoon received members of the U.S. national war college delegation in the Royal Hashemite Court. During the meeting his majesty explained all dimensions and aspects of the Middle East problem.

His majesty said, we are working to achieve a just peace in the area. He said: There is no Arab leader who rejects peace if it achieves complete Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab territory occupied in 1967 and gives the Palestinian people their right to self-determination. Security Council Resolution 242 provides the principles to achieve peace in the area and on all fronts.

His majesty said that what hinders peace efforts in the area is Israel's intransigence and refusal to withdraw from the occupied territory, the establishment of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and the occupied Arab territory and the continuation of expansion.

His majesty continued, we have called for convening an Arab summit conference and have prepared a program of action for it that includes the subjects we suggest for discussion and endorsement by the Arab countries. This would lead to building an intrinsic Arab force at all political, military and economic levels. It would also help the action program which the Jordanian Government proposed to establish inter-Arab relations in a sound and scientific manner.

His majesty said that close Arab cooperation and joint action according to a well-studied plan will reduce Israel to its real size as well as pool the Arab resources to achieve the pan-Arab interests of the Arab world. He further said that Jordan will continue its efforts to bring the Arab countries together and to organize them within an overall program and plan.

His majesty said that Israel is facing the choice between peace and land, and Israel seems to prefer land to peace. He said that Israel occupied southern Lebanon and this expresses its expansionist intentions. I warned of these intentions before 1967. Israel's ambitions do not appear to be coming to an end. Israel is acting to increase the area of the occupied Arab territory. This clearly indicates that Israel does not desire to achieve peace in the area.

On Syrian-Jordanian relations, his majesty said, our relations with Syria are very good. There is coordination between the two countries in all fields. We in Jordan are working to strengthen all Arab relations, particularly since they have deteriorated recently.

On the declaration of principles which is being prepared in the peace talks, his majesty said that Israel is acting to foil the peace efforts in the labyrinths of interpretations and counterinterpretations of the UN Security Council resolutions. Thus, Israel wants to preclude reaching a just settlement. The principles outlined in Security Council Resolution 242 are clear. Action must be taken to carry out these principles, not to indulge in new interpretations, in order to achieve a just settlement and to establish a just and durable peace in the area.

War College Delegation Departs

JN171540Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1510 GMT 17 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 17 April--The delegation of the U.S. war college left Amman today after a visit of several days to Jordan during which time it met with His Majesty King Husayn, the supreme commander of the armed forces, and with Crown Prince Hasan. The delegation also met with the commander in chief of the Jordanian armed forces. The delegation visited a number of military units and institutes and tourist and archeological sites in the kingdom.

MINISTER OF STATE RETURNS FROM MOROCCO, MAKES STATEMENT

JN142125Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Hasan Ibrahim, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Amman this evening after delivering messages from His Majesty King Husayn to the heads of state of Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco on the action program proposed by the Jordanian Government as a basis for convening the Arab summit conference which His Majesty King Husayn has called for.

In a statement to a JNA correspondent, Hasan Ibrahim said: I found that all the leaders of the Arab countries I visited fully appreciate His Majesty King Husayn's efforts to consolidate Arab solidarity and fully understand the action plan proposed by Jordan to organize joint Arab action which will be discussed at the coming Arab summit conference. Ibrahim said that during his visits the current Arab situation was discussed and views on all developments and on relations between Jordan and these countries were also exchanged.

KUWAITI FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN AMMAN

JN171544Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1535 GMT 17 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 17 April--The Kuwaiti foreign minister arrived in Amman today on a visit to Jordan during which he will deliver a message to His Majesty King Husayn from the amir of Kuwait on the current Arab situation and the efforts being made by Kuwait to restore Arab solidarity. The Kuwaiti minister's visit comes within the framework of a tour of Syria, Jordan and Sudan.

JORDANIAN-IRAQI ECONOMIC TALKS BEGIN IN AMMAN

JN152006Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Jordanian-Iraqi economic talks began at the Ministry of Industry and Trade today to discuss ways of increasing and promoting trade between the two countries and to examine the possibilities of increasing the allotments to the Jordanian and Iraqi trading centers [in Baghdad and Amman].

Sources at the Ministry of Industry and Trade have stated that during the meeting the two sides formed two working committees to discuss the question of increasing and promoting trade between the two countries as well as overcoming the difficulties in increasing the allotments to the two trading centers. The Jordanian side was chaired by Dr Hashim ad-Dabbas, under secretary in the Industry and Trade Ministry; the Iraqi side was chaired by Dr Mahdi al-'Ubaydi, Iraqi under secretary in the Trade Ministry.

Dr Najm ad-Din ad-Dajani, minister of industry and trade, this morning received the Iraqi trade delegation members and reviewed with them ways of consolidating trade and economic relations between the two fraternal countries.

WALDHEIM MEETS WITH SARKIS, OTHER OFFICIALS

NC171125Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 17 Apr 78 NC

[Text] His Excellency President Ilyas Sarkis held a meeting at 1000 today attended by Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss. Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus joined the meeting at 1030. A general review of the topics to be discussed with UN Secretary General Waldheim was made in this meeting.

At 1105 today President Sarkis met with the UN secretary general in the presence of the prime minister, the foreign minister, Army Commander Staff Brig Gen Victor Khuri and the chief of the general staff. The meeting was also attended by Dr Waldheim's assistants for special political affairs, (Roberto Gober) and (Brig Orkhart), and the commander of UN emergency forces in Lebanon, General Erskine.

Al-Huss Comments

NC171412Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpt] At 1420 today Prime Minister Dr al-Huss and Foreign Minister Butrus left the presidential palace. Prime Minister al-Huss made the following statement:

During the meeting with the UN secretary general, detailed and frank talks were held at all aspects pertaining to the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution. The talks were frank and positive. Views were exchanged on the various aspects of the Security Council resolution and the steps being followed by the UN emergency forces in carrying out their mission. The Lebanese side outlined all the measures it can take to facilitate the arrival and deployment of the UN emergency forces in southern Lebanon, to expedite the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the area and prepare the ground for the return of the legitimate authority in the area.

The talks, of course were very positive and beneficial. I take this opportunity to thank the UN secretary general for the efforts he is exerting for the restoration of calm, security and legitimacy to the area of southern Lebanon.

Asked whether he had anything to say about a press report about his resignation, Prime Minister al-Huss said: The paper which published the report has denied it. He added: We are ready to undertake any move that would serve the public interest at this stage. We will not undertake any move that could harm the general situation, particularly at this delicate stage of our history.

His Excellency President Ilyas Sarkis resumed his meeting with Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus after Dr Waldheim had left the presidential palace.

SARKIS, WALDHEIM EXCHANGE LUNCHEON SPEECHES

NC171920Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Apr 78 NC

[Text] At the luncheon held by President Sarkis in honor of UN Secretary General Dr Waldheim today President Sarkis and the UN secretary general exchanged speeches.

President Sarkis said: Your Excellency the UN Secretary General: We are happy today to receive you and your aides in Lebanon.

Your presence among us is an expression of the concern of the United Nations for our country. We are following with great interest the praiseworthy efforts which you are still exerting in the service of peace in the area and your contribution to the restoration of calm in Lebanon. The Lebanese people appreciate your efforts very much.

Resolution 425 issued by the UN Security Council has underlined the basic facts pertaining to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon within its existing and internationally recognized borders. It is true that it is not the first time that these principles have been announced, but it is the first time that practical measures have been applied in Lebanon designed to impose respect for the principles of international law and the UN Charter.

I am firmly convinced that you will spare no effort to make the existence of the international organization more real and effective through the implementation of the provisions of Security Council Resolution 425.

Our country, which has a deep-rooted civilization, has always given the process of dialog a distinguished place both in our internal political life and our international relations. By remaining loyal to our traditions, we had the opportunity to become founding members of the United Nations and to fulfill an effective and useful role in its various institutions and committees.

Again I express to you our happiness at your visit, which has given us the chance to express our sentiments toward a person whom we consider to be worthy of representing the international organization in the noble and distinguished services you are fulfilling to achieve the noble principles which the United Nations embodies.

The UN secretary general replied to his excellency the president's speech with a speech in which he expressed pleasure to be visiting Lebanon following the issuing of the resolution passed by the Security Council on 19 March. In his speech Dr Waldheim stressed the importance of the mission which the Security Council entrusted to the UN forces. He said that it is the most difficult task entrusted to a UN peace-keeping force in the history of the United Nations.

The UN secretary general expressed hope that positive results will be achieved through the cooperation of all parties. He also expressed his best wishes to Lebanon and the Lebanese people, and hope that the Lebanese will overcome their difficulties by virtue of their wisdom, love and loyalty to their country so that security and peace will be established in Lebanon, and Lebanon will regain its natural role in the area and in the world.

WALDHEIM HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE BEFORE LEAVING

NC171655Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Apr 78 NC

[Text] UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim left Beirut at 1645 today for Jerusalem. He was seen off by Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus and senior officials of the UN office in Beirut.

At the VIP lounge at Beirut airport, Dr Waldheim made the following statement: I held constructive and beneficial talks this morning with President Ilyas Sarkis, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus.

We discussed the situation in southern Lebanon, particularly the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425 and the role of the United Nations and the cooperation which the Lebanese authorities can give. The exchange of views was very beneficial and helped to clarify a number of points. Here I would like to thank the Government of Lebanon for the spirit of cooperation it has displayed toward the United Nations.

In the afternoon I held a meeting with Yasir 'Arafat and discussed the question of the implementation of the Security Council resolution and a number of practical measures in this respect.

He added: I am leaving Beirut now directly for Israel to hold similar talks with the Israeli Government.

Asked what Palestinian guarantees he is carrying with him to Israel to help in the implementation of the Security Council resolution, Dr Waldheim said: The Palestinians told me that they will continue to cooperate with the UN forces in southern Lebanon for the implementation of all aspects of the Security Council resolution.

Asked what measures the Lebanese Government can take to facilitate the implementation of the Security Council resolution and what guarantees can be given to Lebanon to insure the security of its borders, he said: The Lebanese Government is making every effort to cooperate with the United Nations. I would like to express my appreciation for this attitude. There is also the question of the dispatch of additional Lebanese Internal Security Forces to southern Lebanon. There is also the question of the participation of the Lebanese Army in maintaining security in the south. However, we believe that it would be impossible to implement this at this point. This requires further preparations. This subject will be considered as a long-range possibility. This question can be put to the Lebanese Government.

Asked whether there is a possibility of asking the UN forces to take up positions north of the Litani River, Dr Waldheim said: This is not our intention. We are bound by the Security Council resolution, which stipulates that UN forces should be deployed in the areas occupied by Israel and that those forces are to insure the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the area. Any change in this mission is up to the Security Council.

Asked whether the UN forces will prevent the armed Palestinian presence in the south, he said: The task of the UN peace-keeping forces in southern Lebanon is clear in this respect. The forces will control movements in this area.

Butrus Comments

NC171840Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpts] UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim left Beirut at 1615 today for Israel. He will return to southern Lebanon tomorrow to inspect the UN forces there.

At the airport Dr Waldheim held a press conference during which he spoke about the results of his talks in Beirut.

Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus, who was at the airport to see Dr Waldheim off, also spoke to newsmen about the visit of the UN secretary general. He said: We studied the means to implement the UN Security Council resolution.

There is an inclination to increase the number of UN forces. The UN secretary general raised this issue. We expressed our views on it. I think that he is moving toward this possibility.

Minister Butrus expressed optimism about the future. He said: One must always hope for the best. This is the way to live. Asked about his impressions of the results of the visit of the UN secretary general to Lebanon and the subjects discussed, Minister Butrus said: [begin recording] Actually all the subjects discussed were important. It would be arbitrary to distinguish between one subject and another because such a distinction would be subjective, not objective. My impressions in general are that the visit was very useful. It gave us the opportunity to exchange views with the UN secretary general on ways to implement the Security Council resolution with all its clauses and regarding possible future developments in the Middle East crisis. [end recording]

PREMIER AL-HUSS COMMENTS ON SAUDI PAPER INTERVIEW

NC171056Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 17 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Today's newspapers publish an interview which the prime minister gave to the Saudi newspaper AR-RIYADH. In the interview the prime minister refers to agreements which regulate the relationship between the Lebanese authorities and the PLO.

This morning Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss said that this interview with the correspondent of the Riyadh newspaper was held a long time ago, possibly over 2 months ago. Regarding the agreements, the prime minister does not believe that they are a topic for discussion or that it is in the national interest to discuss them at a time when all efforts should be pooled to secure the implementation of the Security Council resolution, so as to bring about the withdrawal of the Israeli aggressors from Lebanon as soon as possible and the return of the legitimate authorities to the south.

PIERRE AL-JUMAYYIL ON UN ROLE, RECENT INCIDENTS

NC171620Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 16 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil has stated that even if the United Nations, in its capacity as an international body, cannot prevent wars, at least it has considerable capability to provide peace, particularly for small countries such as Lebanon. The Phalangist leader said this in a comment he made today on Waldheim's visit and the talks Waldheim is currently holding on the situation in southern Lebanon. Al-Jumayyil added: We have been involved in the whirlpool of war for 3 years now. There were no effective measures from the United Nations until the tragedy of Israeli occupation took place in the south. The subsequent UN initiative is still not in proper proportion with the tragedy from which the Lebanese are suffering.

Al-Jumayyil told reporters that UN Security Council Resolution 425 calls for Israel's withdrawal and the establishment of Lebanese sovereignty. In other words the Israeli withdrawal and the realization of Lebanese authority are interrelated, and if one is realized without the other, this will mean that the effectiveness of the UN resolution has not been realized in any form. If the authority of the Lebanese state is not firmly and comprehensively established in the south, no one will be able to guarantee against the south again being subjected to the tragedy of attack and occupation.

This is especially true in view of the Palestinian intentions--as expressed by Yasir 'Arafat in a statement to the French paper LE FIGARO--to reestablish the Palestinian armed presence in southern Lebanon in accordance to what has been called the Cairo Agreement.

Al-Jumayyil added that there is another matter which deserves attention: The UN commander has affirmed that he will not permit any Palestinian armed presence in the border area. This means that the Palestinian presence can exist elsewhere in the south and in other areas. Who will control this presence and prevent its dangerous indulgences? If the Lebanese State, the agreements and the Arab states were unable to control the situation in the south which brought about the tragedy of the Israeli occupation, who will subsequently control the dangerous indulgences in the other areas? What will the uncontrolled armed Palestinian presence lead to, and who will be responsible for controlling the situation and preventing the violations? In the interest of everybody the Lebanese authorities must empower the Arab deterrent forces, which are under orders of the Lebanese authorities, to deter the Palestinian violations in the areas beyond the jurisdiction of the UN forces so that the state will regain control and sovereignty over all its territories.

Al-Jumayyil said that under the circumstances those responsible and the jurisdiction of their responsibility should be clearly defined, so those responsible can issue orders and implement measures to prevent the recurrence of the mistakes made before the 2-year [as heard] war and which resulted in the fragmentation of authority and in the dispute over authority between the state and the armed organizations.

Today things can easily be cleared up as long as no contradictions exist between the state and the deterrent forces at the disposal of the state.

Al-Jumayyil concluded his statement by demanding a quick investigation in the 'Ayn ar-Rummanah incidents in order to determine who was responsible for them and to punish them to prevent such incidents in the future.

AL-JUMAYYIL MEETS WITH INTERIOR MINISTER

NC172040Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 17 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpts] Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil met with the minister of interior, Dr Salah Salaman, at noon today. After the meeting Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil stressed the need to quickly initiate Lebanese-Syrian investigations into the recent incidents in 'Ayn ar-Rummanah to determine who is responsible for the mistakes were made, mistakes for which innocent people paid the price.

Dr Salaman called on the Phalangist leader in his office at central Phalangist headquarters at 1145 and held a 1-hour meeting with him. Al-Jumayyil expressed satisfaction with the security situation, adding: I demand that the Lebanese and Syrian governments conduct investigations into the 'Ayn ar-Rummanah incidents because this is in the interest of Lebanon and Syria. I believe both sides made mistakes, and I think it is necessary to deal with these mistakes in a spiric of responsibility and impartiality in order to maintain the sincere cooperation which should prevail in relations between Lebanon and Syria.

Asked whether the current political crisis will lead to the government's resignation, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil replied: Regrettably, I think that the matter is more than a cabinet affair, because we all know the circumstances that brought this government and those ministers to power. My own view is that it is somewhat unjust to demand that those ministers put up with more than they can bear.

UNIFIED COMMAND OF LEBANESE FORCES MEETS

NC172227Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 2015 GMT 17 Apr 78 NC

[Text] The unified command of the Lebanese forces held a meeting under Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil this evening during which it reviewed the security situation and the developments that accompanied UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim's visit to Lebanon today.

After the meeting Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil made a statement saying: We have decided to ask the authorities concerned to identify the political and security quarters which are responsible for shelling the areas of 'Ayn ar-Rummanah, Badaru, Furn ash-Shubbak and At-Ahwitah. The commander of the Lebanese forces added: Reports reaching us have revealed that what happened last week was not a mere coincidence nor the aftereffect of an isolated incident as some incompetent, fraudulent official quarters wanted to make the people believe.

The commander of the unified Lebanese forces said: As far as we are concerned, it does not matter whether the Lebanese authorities had given orders to have 'Ayn ar-Rummanah shelled or not. They are still held responsible through their solidarity with the Arab deterrent forces. The failure of the Lebanese authorities to prevent the deterrent forces from shelling 'Ayn ar-Rummanah must be viewed within the context of their political responsibility; the deterrent forces' disregard of the Lebanese authority must be viewed within the context of their military responsibility. However, the file on the 'Ayn ar-Rummanah shelling cannot yet be closed. The file on 'Ayn ar-Rummanah, which was the victim of incompetence and collusion, cannot yet be closed because there were an abnormal number of victims and losses and because there is no guarantee that this area or any other will not be subjected to a similar catastrophe in the future. Al-Fayyadiyah and Al-Ashrafiyah were shelled 2 months ago. Recently, it was the turn of 'Ayn ar-Rummanah. We do not know which other area in eastern or western Beirut will have its turn next. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the Lebanese authorities, who are responsible for the Lebanese, to quickly reach a final understanding with the states participating in the Arab deterrent forces, particularly Syria, on the task, limits and powers of these forces. Until this understanding is reached, the Lebanese forces command has decided to take care of the security of the citizens and to preserve the (?positions they have) until the Lebanese security forces assume their responsibilities.

Concluding, Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil called on the Lebanese communities and sides to expedite the achievement of unity, pledging all the capabilities of the Lebanese forces to achieve this basic objective.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE CALLS ON GOVERNMENT TO RESIGN

NC172200Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 2015 GMT 17 Apr 78 NC

[Text] The Lebanese research committee, which is holding an extraordinary meeting at Al-Kaslik University, issued a statement a short time ago holding the government responsible for the shelling of 'Ayn ar-Rummanah and Badaru over the past few days. It called on the government to resign and on the state to immediately begin to pursue the perpetrators of these barbaric actions and to bring them to justice. It also called on the state to immediately provide full compensation to all those who have been affected in 'Ayn ar-Rummanah and Badaru.

TWO INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES MEMBERS KILLED

NC181026Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Fire was opened on a foot patrol of the Internal Security Forces which was examining the identity of some persons along the At-Tibbiyah-Ra's an-Nab' Graveyard road, killing Yusuf Mir'i and Georges al-Khuri Hilu. The culprits tried to steal the rifle of one of the two dead gendarmes. A member of the patrol opened fire on the perpetrators, who threw away the rifle and fled. Investigations are being conducted to arrest the culprits.

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS EXPLOSION, SHOOTING

NC180701Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 18 Apr 78 NC

[Text] An explosion took place last night near a building which includes the apartment of Dr Charles Rizq, the director general of the Information Ministry. There were no casualties. The glass of the building and other adjacent buildings was smashed. The investigations have not yet revealed whether the explosion was the result of an explosive charge or a mortar shell. The watchman guarding the building said that he heard a whistle before the explosion took place. At about 2230 yesterday, shots were heard in Muhammad al-Hut Street in Beirut. It is reported that the shots were fired after differences among some organizations there.

INA REPORTS ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL IN S. LEBANON

JN141715Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 14 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 14 April--According to reports received today from southern Lebanon, the Zionist occupation forces moved a number of their vehicles in the central sector to new positions in accordance with the second phase of the partial withdrawal which is supposed to begin today. The INA correspondent in the south has reported that the enemy forces did not withdraw from At-Tayyibah village as certain reports stated, but assumed positions at the entrance to the township and in the hills surrounding it. The INA correspondent also said that other Zionist forces withdrew from (Farun) village near Al-Ghanduriyah in the central sector. These forces withdrew a distance of 3 km south of the Litani River and occupied new positions which command the village and control the road in the area. These forces had blown up a number of houses in the village. The INA correspondent said that the second stage of withdrawal was supposed to cover a vast part of the central sector but in fact was insignificant from the military standpoint and thus similar to the first stage, which took place on Tuesday.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES CONGRATULATIONS FROM BREZHNEV, CARTER

JN1714022 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] Damascus--Syria today celebrates the 32d anniversary of the evacuation of French forces from the homeland.

On this immortal nationalist occasion President Hafiz al-Asad has received a great number of congratulatory cables from the kings and presidents of Arab and foreign countries.

President Hafiz al-Asad received a cable of congratulations from Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev. The text of the cable follows: In the name of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, the Soviet people and on my own behalf, I send you, Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, and the friendly Syrian people warm congratulations and greetings on the national day of the Syrian Arab Republic, the day of the evacuation of foreign forces from Syrian territory. On this outstanding day, I wish the Syrian people success on the road to strengthening national independence and achieving progressive social and economic transformations and in your struggle for a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

I am confident that the friendly and firm relations and overall cooperation existing between the Soviet Union and the Syrian Arab Republic will continue to benefit the interests of our peoples and the issue of peace and progress.

President al-Asad received the following cable of congratulations from U.S. President Jimmy Carter: Syria's celebration of the anniversary of its independence is a happy occasion on which I would like to take time to express to Your Excellency, and to the Syrian people, my best wishes and the wishes of the people of my country.

This annual anniversary comes a short time after the beginning of your second term of office as leader of your people. Your speech to the nation at the time impressed me deeply, particularly concerning the hopes you pinned on individual freedom and personal opportunity.

I wish you and the Syrian people success in achieving these great aims. I wish Syria continued prosperity and progress toward achieving our common aim of a just and permanent peace in the Middle East. With my best wishes.

Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito sent the following cable to President Hafiz al-Asad: On the occasion of the independence of the Syrian Arab Republic, It gives me pleasure to send on behalf of the peoples of Yugoslavia, and in my own name, congratulations and warm wishes for the friendly Syrian people's continued progress and for your happiness.

I am convinced that the friendly relations and strong cooperation between our two nonalined countries will further strengthen the common interests of our people and will contribute to achieving the nonalined policy and to finding a just solution to acute international problems and to consolidating peace and cooperation in the world.

TALAS DELIVERS SPEECH AT EVACUATION DAY RALLY

JN171830Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1613 GMT 17 Apr 78 JN

[Speech by Gen Mustafa Talas, Syrian deputy commander in chief of the army and armed forces, defense minister and member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command, at speech rally in Damascus on 17 April marking 32d anniversary of Evacuation Day--live]

[Excerpts] President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; comrades members of the National and Regional commands; Comrades members of the National Progressive Front; brave strugglers; respected audience: World War I had hardly ended when the allies bared their colonialist fangs. Instead of keeping the pledges and charters which they gave Ash-Sharif Husayn ibn 'Ali, commander of the great Arab revolt, to establish an independent Arab state including greater Syria and the Hijaz, they began to implement the Sykes-Picot Agreement, which provided for the fragmentation of the Arab east into spheres of influence by placing its states under the British and French mandates. Thus, hardly had we rid ourselves of the Ottoman domination when we came under French tutelege. As the saying goes, we jumped from the frying pan into the fire. [applause]

A reading of the history of the years which followed independence will show us that Syria--the first Arab country to gain its liberation from foreign rule--is distinguished from its sister Arab states by two basic points:

1. It is the only Arab country which accepted another flag, the flag of Arab unity, to be flown above its own flag. [applause] This took place in February 1958 when Syria united with Egypt. On this occasion the former president of this struggling country, Shukri al-Quwwatli, was the first Arab president who agreed to relinquish his post and become an ordinary Syrian citizen. [applause]

2. Syria is the Arab country which sacrificed more of its sons for the Palestinian cause than the rest of the Arab nation from the ocean to the gulf.

I wanted to mention these two facts not to brag about what this country offered, but because truth should be told so that the outbidders in Baghdad will know the dark corner of history in which they are sulking.

Mr president, respected strugglers, during the glorious October war, the ground shook under the feet of the Zionist invaders. The long night of the Arab nation ushered in a noble and unionist Arab rebirth. [applause] Imperialism and its ally Zionism decided to break the chain at its weakest links. Imperialism cast a look at Syria and found a lion [pun on the name of Al-Asad, which means "lion" in Arabic], a leading party and a united people. [applause] It turned toward Egypt and found the president of the Egyptian regime relaxing in Aswan in a state of imbalance. It rejoiced. [applause] Kissinger beamed because he had finally found what he was looking for. Anwar as-Sadat began the series of treacheries and deviations, the most important of which was the trip of shame which he began in Jerusalem on the Feast of Al-Adha.

A total of 6 months [as heard] has passed since the trip of shame, and Anwar as-Sadat has not received anything. Thus he had to save face, if he had any left. Agreement was reached that nothing, save the invasion of southern Lebanon, could cover up for Anwar as-Sadat's failure in the march of humiliation and capitulation which he began in the fall of 1977. Menahem Begin was in Washington when the invaders overran southern Lebanon on 15 March 1978. [sentence as heard]

On this occasion, I would like to speak briefly about the objectives of the Zionist enemy and imperialism in invading southern Lebanon:

1. Southern Lebanon holds an important place in Israel's expansionist designs and aggressive strategy. It covets Lebanon's land and waters;

2. Liquidation of the bases of the Palestinian revolution in southern Lebanon in order to force the Palestinians to retreat to the interior and create new problems for them, transforming their national struggle into a power struggle with the Lebanese;

3. To drag the Syrian Army into waging a battle in southern Lebanon against Israel, planning thus to enable imperialism and Zionism to impose a humiliating capitulation on the Arabs, because without Syria the Arabs cannot face Israel. [applause]

4. Gradual eviction of residents in southern Lebanon using all Zionist means so that the number of those returning will be less than the evacuees.

5. Israel will repeat its invasion of southern Lebanon for a third, fourth and fifth time if our brothers in Lebanon continue to believe in the corrupt theory which says that the secret of Lebanon's strength lies in its weakness. International forces are primarily concerned with their interests, whereas the idyllic natural beauty of Lebanon can be enjoyed in other places in the world.

6. During the implementation of the withdrawal, Israel will stall. Each time the international community--represented by the UN Security Council--manages to pass a resolution to expedite withdrawal, Israel will carry out a symbolic withdrawal to show its good intentions. However, each subsequent time it will stall further to accustom the international community to accepting the Israeli solution in doses, using the method applied by Hitler in Europe, known in military science as the artichoke maneuver [munawarat al-kharshufah].

7. To draw attention away from As-Sadat's initiative because the Arab nation is aching under the new wound. In southern Lebanon our martyrs' bodies are still warm and bleeding. Hence, all talk in the entire region is about Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

8. Some, including Anwar as-Sadat, erroneously thought that the martyr Kamal 'Udwan operation was what prompted Israel to overrun southern Lebanon on 15 March 1978. President Hafiz al-Asad clearly clarified this point in his interview with the U.S. magazine NEWSWEEK on 19 March 1978. He said that the link between the fedayeen raid and the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon was imaginary. The Palestinian operation was a mere pretext used by Israel to implement a scheme which had already been set and planned. The matter is linked to the mentality of expansion. What we see now is simply another Israeli occupation.

These are, in brief, Israel's intentions and the objectives of the Zionist invasion of southern Lebanon. We can conclude that the most important objective--dragging the Syrian Army into the battle--was not accomplished despite the pleas of the rulers of Cairo and Baghdad who said: "For God's sake, fight. We will applaud you and hear your news." This is what they used to say in Baghdad and Cairo. President al-Asad made a wise and courageous decision [applause] when he said at the Euphrates Dam that we do not fight according to Israeli plans and that our land and skies are open to the Arabs to support the Palestinian resistance.

Anwar as-Sadat was bursting with anger and spite because Syria was not embroiled in a war against Israel. The leaders of Baghdad were also in a frenzy. Spite was tearing up their insides. They also wanted us to be embroiled and dragged into a battle where we would be, like dummies and pawns, moving by reaction.

To the agents of imperialism in Baghdad we say: Dispatching several hundred volunteers carrying obsolete Czechoslovak sidearms and a few bags of dates to the Palestinian resistance will not liberate Palestine. The logic of figures says: If you want to assist the steadfastness front--represented by Syria and the Palestinian resistance--you should pay as much as the United States pays Israel, approximately $2.3 billion annually, or your army should come to the Golan so that the sending of the Iraqi Army will not be a mere theatrical play like that of the summer of 1976.

On this occasion, we would like to say that despite the fact that Syria handed over to its destination everything Iraq sent--which in our opinion, was little--Baghdad radio continues to hiss like a viper against Syria, claiming that Syria is impeding the flow of abundant supplies which Baghdad is sending to the Palestinian revolution. I have never in my life seen such liars as the rulers of Baghdad.

When the Zionist invasion did not achieve its objectives, imperialism decided to recruit its agents in Lebanon to spark sedition and take the Lebanese people back to the bloodbath from which they had suffered the previous 2 years. Imperialism and Zionism thought Syria could not intervene in the matter because the problem had become extremely complicated. The timing of the sedition is significant. It came only 1 day before the implementation of Israel's symbolic withdrawal, so that world public opinion would not ask: What kind of a withdrawal is this? A simple mathematical calculation will show that Israel withdrew from only 1.18 percent of the territory it occupied in southern Lebanon.

Syria did not remain idle, as imperialism and Zionism had thought it would. The Syrian forces operating within the Arab deterrent forces in Lebanon occupied positions which enabled them to stop the bloody fighting among the brethren. These forces succeeded in this mission. President Sarkis played a national and pan-Arab role in this respect. On this occasion, I would like everybody in Lebanon to know that Syria's policy has not changed. We are against those who spark sedition and open fire on their brothers and kin of the same nation. We will never allow the disruption of security in a neighboring fraternal state, because Syria's immediate security is largely linked to Lebanon's security, stability and safety. [applause]

Can Arab solidarity perform miracles in the region? Arab solidarity, as understood by Syria and all Arabs, should be geared to the service of Arab objectives, primarily the explusion of the Zionist invaders from our land and the restoration of the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in their land and homeland. If Arab solidarity is to be used as a cover for Anwar as-Sadat's squint [as heard], disgrace and sins, it would be better for us to remain as we are now because the future is ours. The Arab people in Egypt are able to expel As-Sadat and his retinue as they expelled King Faruq. [applause]

Syria will never forget the vile and mean stabs which this treacherous lackey aimed at its back. We cannot trust a liar and a defeatist. We cannot extend our hand to a man who does not fight in defense of his land and honor. Proceeding from this premise, there can never be a meeting with this traitor, because once bitten, twice shy. [applause]

Brother citizens, from amidst these difficult circumstances the Arab nation will emerge victorious over its enemies. There is one thing which imperialism and Zionism have not realized yet, namely, that under the leadership of Al-Asad, [applause], Syria is much stronger than the calculations of thousands of computers and brains. The Arab nation will never abandon its frontline position and its confrontation against its traditional enemies. God will grant victory to those who support Him. God is almighty. [applause]

Glory to the martyrs who died for freedom and national independence. Hail to their brother strugglers who performed heroic deeds for the homeland! [applause] Peace be upon you.

BEGIN REJECTS RENEWAL OF ATHERTON MISSION

TA171115Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 17 Apr 78 p 1 TA

[By 'Uzzi Benziman]

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin rejected a U.S. proposal to renew the mediation of roving Ambassador Alfred Atherton.

At a talk the prime minister and the foreign minister held with Ambassador Samuel Lewis at the end of last week, the ambassador presented a proposal to renew Atherton's mission. Begin and Dayan answered that under the present circumstances there is no sense in such a move. They explained their position as stemming from the Egyptian intransigence that had come to the fore in the last days of Atherton's mediations, as well as from the timetables of the foreign minister and of the prime minister. They also mentioned to the ambassador the U.S. position, which is supportive of Egypt's assertions.

At yesterday's cabinet session critical remarks were made about the role the United States is adopting in the negotiations between Jerusalem and Cairo. A number of cabinet members contended that one of the reasons for Egypt's intransigence is the backing it is receiving from the United States. Other ministers asserted that Washington is conducting a guided publicity campaign against Israel in every medium at their disposal. Deputy Prime Minister Yiga'el Yadin remarked that the United States is deliberately presenting Israel's views in a one-sided perspective, and is putting emphasis on elements in Israeli policy which it regards as intransigent, while it ignores Israel's flexible positions.

A meeting between Carter and Begin has not been discussed although, as this is the custom, the U.S. President is likely to invite Mr Begin for a talk--be it only a courtesy meeting--when the prime minister is in the United States at the end of this month for 30th anniversary celebrations.

HARIF ON BEGIN-CARTER TALKS; CIRCULAR ON RESOLUTION 242

TA161423Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 16 Apr 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Yosef Harif]

[Text] At a meeting on Friday between Prime Minister Menahem Begin and U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis the negotiations between Israel and Egypt and the need to get rid of misunderstandings, some of which are imaginary, between Israel and the United States were discussed. Also discussed was the need for a meeting between the foreign minister of Israel and the U.S. secretary of state, Dayan and Vance, but an exact date was not fixed and the matter will be coordinated with the U.S. secretary of state, who is now outside the United States.

At this stage no meeting was discussed between Mr Begin and President Jimmy Carter and political observers are concluding from the fact that a meeting at the foreign ministers level is being discussed that both sides would apparently prefer that prior to the Begin-Carter meeting (which will naturally arouse many expectations for results) matters be discussed at the level of foreign ministers.

If no understanding is achieved before the beginning of next month on ways to advance the negotiations between Israel and Egypt, Jerusalem sees no great point in further meetings between the prime minister and President Carter. A senior source said that as long as the factors of tension--at the White House meeting last month--have not been eliminated, great caution should be used on this issue.

However, the possibility is not being dismissed of a courtesy visit between the two on the occasion of the prime minister's visit to the United States at the beginning of next month, to mark the opening of Israel's 30th independence day celebrations throughout the United States.

Authorized sources in Jerusalem said this morning that Israel's position on Security Council Resolution 242 was not discussed at the Begin-Lewis meeting. The same sources commented that what has been written and published on this matter--the writers of which were, for some reason, interested in underlining that the prime minister had accepted foreign minister Dayan's formulations--"is very strange." There is no change in the cabinet's position on this issue and all those positive things said at the end of the week of Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan were absolutely in keeping with the cabinet's conclusions and have already been said by the foreign minister on previous occasions.

The new reports on this issue follow on the heels of a circular distributed by the foreign minister to Israeli representatives abroad giving them the line to follow on the issue of 242. This circular, which was sent to the representatives at the end of the week, was distributed with the agreement of the prime minister. The circular says that on everything touching on Judaea and Samaria there will be no territorial compromise and no return to the previous borders and there will be no acceptance of the view that it will be possible to make solely minor changes in Judaea and Samaria. This is in the first three paragraphs in the circular, and the fourth paragraph says that "our position is that the administrative program [for self-rule] is in accordance with the principles of 242."

The fifth paragraph of the circular says that if the Arabs put forward counterproposals, we will discuss them with a practical approach just as we expect them to discuss our proposals.

As for the text of the declaration of principles, in which the Egyptians want to include an Israeli withdrawal "in all sectors," the circular says that Israel's position is that, since Resolution 242 speaks about "a withdrawal from territories conquered in the 6-day war" and does not at all spell out any sectors, then Israel is correct in its opposition to adding words to the declaration of principles which are not included in 242. Accordingly, the circular emphasizes, it follows that Israel has agreed to say that it accepts 242 as a basis for negotiations between Israel and all the neighboring countries--Egypt, Jordan and Syria. In this paragraph (that is, that Israel is prepared to negotiate on the basis of 242 with Jordan, too) Israel wants to stress that it is not blocking the way to negotiati ns on any issue, including Judaea and Samaria, with anyone, including Jordan, and, as stated in paragraph five above: If the Arabs put forward counterproposals to the autonomy plan, Israel will be prepared to discuss them with a practical approach.

The foreign minister had previously announced that if Jordan were to make proposals for a partition of the West Bank, Israel would not reject the proposal outright, but would negotiate with Jordan.

The last paragraph of the circular recalls the text included in the U.S.-Israeli working paper and says that: "The issues of the West Bank and Gaza will be discussed in a working group to include Israel, Jordan, Egypt and the Palestinian Arabs." The need for these explanations springs from the depression concerning its informational campaign into which Israel fell when both the Americans and the Egyptians--mainly the media--succeeded in getting across to public opinion the impression that Israel's position is the obstacle to the negotiations, whereas the Israeli position certainly fits in with the original text of 242.

In contacts with the United States Israel will try to get the administration to move toward it and be satisfied with announcements that Resolution 242 is really accepted by Israel in all its parts, and thus to open a way for a renewal of the contacts with Egypt. It appears that the United States--which fears a protracted freeze in the talks--will now make an effort to come to an understanding with Israel and Egypt on this issue.

CORRESPONDENT COMMENTS ON MIDEAST NEGOTIATIONS

TA141045Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 14 Apr 78 p 14 TA

['Uzzi Benziman commentary]

[Text] A fog lay over the political arena this week. It fell at the beginning of last week when 'Ezer Weizman reported to the cabinet on his recent talks in Cairo. The fog created interest: Was it concealing intensive political events or was it a mist rising from the deadlock? Three different answers were given in the three capitals: Washington reported on the consolidation of new U.S. plans which were soon to be submitted to Israel and Egypt; Cairo reported on the active negotiations being conducted, as it were, between Israel and Egypt on the declaration of principles; and Jerusalem signaled that nothing is happening, the negotiations are not moving.

If no conspiracy of silence was declared by the three centers in Israel where national policy is formed--and it is hard to believe that such a conspiracy is possible in the three centers comprising politicians whose views are not identical--then the reports from Cairo were untrue while the reports from Washington did not appear to have substance.

The assessment in the prime minister's office and in the foreign and defense ministries was identical this week: Nothing is happening. The political process is in a state of deadlock. One could observe differences in approach with respect to the value of such a situation. There is a feeling around the prime minister that there is nothing wring with a breathing space and it is not Israel's job to get the wheels of negotiations turning. The Foreign Ministry is of the opinion that until the end of the month--when Begin and As-Sadat are in the United States--no real developments can be expected. The Defense Ministry, on the other hand, is livid that the government is not taking new decisions.

It is 2 weeks since the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs last met, which was 2 days after Wiezman's return from Cairo, in order to hear a report on how the talks were going. Since no new date for a visit to Egypt has been determined the committee has not convened to discuss whether it is necessary to equip the defense minister with new guidelines.

The government has not taken any new initiative mainly because of the prime minister's belief that this is not Israel's job. Begin believes Egypt should reply to the peace plan that Israel submitted during the Ismailia summit. Begin insists on this, not only because of the formal symmetry that he likes so much but because he believes that an Egyptian counterproposal would provide real fuel to the political deliberations.

If an Egyptian peace plan is submitted it will be possible to discuss it, compare it to the Israeli proposal and try to find a compromise between them. If the Egyptian document shows the same inflexibility manifest in As-Sadat's public positions, then Israel will more easily be able to prove to the world that it has moved a long way from its original positions while As-Sadat has not moved an inch from the basic views that he expressed in his Knesset speech.

There is another reason for Begin's view that Israel should not make a new initiative at this time: In his opinion, since the peace plan was submitted in Ismailia, Jerusalem has expressed a willingness to go further toward meeting Egypt. This flexibility was also manifest in Weizman's latest visit to Cairo.

For the time being, the Egyptian president's positions are not forcing Begin to decide between his desire to establish peace and his belief in the idea of a Greater Israel. Since As-Sadat still stands by the principle that Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank must be total--and he is not prepared to agree to a territorial compromise--Begin feels himself absolved from having to decide.

In the present situation Begin feels himself absolved from having to resolve the dilemma that is plaguing him. If As-Sadat seriously calls for a total Israeli withdrawal and Israeli agreement to Palestinian self-determination then there is no justification for Begin to give up his views and agree to declare that the principle of withdrawal also applies to Judaea and Samaria.

The difficulty in the prime minister's position is that his ideological commitment to the idea that there be no foreign rule over Judaea and Samaria makes Israel's international position rather burdensome. Were he willing to conduct the political campaign through the use of flexible terminology not so much in keeping with his basic views about the future of the West Bank he would ease Israel's position in U.S. public opinion. However, Begin maintains that verbal flexibility creates political positions and that a softening of formulas creates an immediate change in the government's positions which might cause it to have to conduct political contacts from new points of departure created in the wake of the backing down from the present formula.

In view of the deadlock in the negotiations the U.S. administration wanted to examine an old idea this week: providing contractual guarantees for Israel's security in return for the Israeli Government's willingness to soften its positions in the negotiations with Egypt. The well-known commentator James Reston was used by the administration this time to throw the idea into the arena and examine Israel's reaction.

The first time that the possibility of reaching a contractual defense pact between the Begin government and the United States was examined was when Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan visited Washington in September of last year. At that time, when the Israel-U.S. working paper was consolidated Dayan was asked for his reaction to the possibility that Israel-U.S. relations might take on the same nature as those between the United States and NATO.

Dayan expressed great interest and announced that the government would seriously, and with a positive view, consider a U.S. proposal of this kind. However, since these remarks were made to Dayan no real U.S. initiative has been forthcoming. The idea was incidentally mentioned in the talks that Begin conducted in Washington last month but there were no serious deliberations on this.

The government has never seriously discussed its attitude to a contractual agreement with the United States. Since such a proposal was not submitted, the government did not find it necessary to discuss it. As far as is known, the idea has not even been examined by the planning authorities--including the IDF think tank and planning department. Begin once said that there is no guarantee that can guarantee the period of guarantee. That is to say, a country cannot base its security and existence on the guarantee of a foreign country. This, of course, is the basic view of the ministers. None of them can conceive of exchanging components of security--such as territories--for a U.S. commitment--even contractual--to insure Israel's well being.

This week it was possible to hear in Jerusalem varied claims against the idea of a U.S. guarantee as presented by Reston (a U.S. naval base in Jaffa and an airbase in Sinai). There were comments about the doubtful credibility of the United States as manifest in Taiwan and Vietnam. There were mentions that making national security dependent on an alliance with the United States meant a loss of independence. It was also mentioned that guarantees are given under certain circumstances and when the validity of the guarantee is tested there is a new set of circumstances which might insure the automatic implementation of the guarantees included in the contractual agreement. [sentence as published]

This week sarcastic mention was made of Israel's brief experience with guarantees from foreign countries, including the United States (the ability and enthusiasm shown in breaking the blockade of the waterway to Elat on the eve of the 6-day war, after promises were made on this issue prior to Israel's withdrawal from Sharm ash-Shaykh in 1957). This week Jerusalem stated that the basic Israeli approach meets the desire to base its security on its own forces and on direct dialog with its Arab neighbors. It is not prepared to exchange these security components with dependence on a foreign element. The well-known Israeli principle, as put by Dayan, "we do not want U.S. soldiers to fight for us" was also reiterated.

At the same time, it was impossible to find an authoritative political element who rejected the idea of U.S. guarantees as a complementary foundation to a comprehensive peace agreement. This week, a wise observer pointed out that contractual ties between Israel and the United States along the lines of the alliance between Washington and NATO is not such a bad proposal. Jerusalem is interested but Washington has never proposed it.

It was also claimed that the idea proposed by Reston meets U.S. interests no less than it meets Israel's needs. According to this view the United States has an interest in establishing an airbase in Sinai as a strategic answer to the Soviet positions in the Horn of Africa and in the Gulf of Suez (even though no one could understand how it would be possible to set up a naval base in Jaffa).

The idea of Israeli-U.S. contractual ties is not new and it has accompanied the state since it was created. Despite this, the matter has never been thoroughly discussed nor has it ever been raised as a real possibility by Washington. Were such a proposal submitted to the Begin government it would be discussed seriously on the assumption that a contractual agreement would be a complementary component in a peace agreement in the region and not a substitute for the security foundations entrenched in Israel's traditional defense concept.

A proposal for a U.S.-Israeli defense pact did not come this week. Instead, tunes, unpleasant to the Israeli ear, continued to come from Washington. The issue of the use of the cluster bombs has served as new ammunition to be fired from the White House and the State Department against the government (this, at least, was how the U.S. view was interpreted in the prime minister's immediate vicinity). The administration was also very interested in the report that the prime minister was going into the hospital for tests.

Begin's state of health and mood has also been a source of interest among Israeli political circles. Ministers have noticed that the prime minister looks tired and that his mood is cool. The tests showed that his state of health is normal. People close to him maintain that Begin's mood is not angry but that he is deeply involved in important ideas. Begin is pregnant with new ideas, as one person defined it.

ZIPPORI COMMENTS ON SETTLEMENT POLICY, LEBANON

TA171925Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Apr 78 TA

[Text] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Zippori said that in the next few days the government would have to decide on the fate of the settlement in Shilo. At the Social and Economic Club in Qiryat Gat, Zippori said that the settlement was established without approval and also that there would not be an archeological expedition there.

He also stressed that the present government's settlement policy is fundamentally different from the policy of previous governments. The government is firm in its stand that any concession in Judaea and Samaria casts doubt on the long-term existence of the State of Israel, especially at a time when large quantities of sophisticated weapons are in the hands of neighboring countries.

As for the situation in southern Lebanon, Mordekhay Zippori said that there are no illusions about the UN force's ability to prevent the return of terrorists to the region. However, after the IDF operation and after the thorough destruction of terrorist positions it will undoubtedly take a long time for them to reorganize.

CONSTRUCTION WORK STARTS AT NEW W. BANK SETTLEMENT

TA171419Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 17 Apr 78 p 2 TA

[By Dalya Mazori]

[Excerpts] The first tractor arrived yesterday to prepare the area where temporary housing will be constructed for the Neve Zuf settlement (An Nabi Salih) in Samaria. Another tractor is to come this week and heavy equipment will be coming next week.

Thus, the instruction issued by Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman more than a month ago to freeze land preparation work at Neve Zuf has been "thawed."

The defense minister revoked the instruction last Sunday, after discussing the matter with the prime minister.

The temporary settlement takes up an area of 100 dunams, for which a seizure order had been issued. From 50 to 70 housing units are to be put up near the old building of the An Nabi Salih police station, southwest of the police post, on a site called Khirbat Al (Hublata).

At this stage preparatory work is being made for the construction of the temporary settlement. To construct the permanent settlement, a further order for the seizure of 500 dunams on a nearby hill south of Khirbat Al (Hublata), called Giv'at Hahoresh, will be needed.

All the land is public land, which is not recorded in the land registry as belonging to anyone, and which does not belong to anybody. The seizure order is necessary to counter any possible claims that the Arab residents may have established in various parts of the area earmarked for construction.

HUNDREDS OF FAMILIES TO SETTLE IN YAMIT DISTRICT

TA171952Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Apr 78 TA

[Excerpt] This summer 270 families will join the Yamit district population. This will take place in the framework of the broadening program for the settlements in the district. With the absorption of these families, the population in the rural settlements in the Yamit district will be increased by about 50 percent. The new families will be absorbed in the existing settlements, in settlements that are being built and in three temporary centers slated for new nuclei.

UNATTRIBUTED RADIO, TV REPORTS NOW NEED TOP APPROVAL

TA180740Y Jerusalem POST in English 18 Apr 78 p 2 TA

[Excerpt] Radio and TV journalists will continue to quote anonymous "informed sources" in their reports, but only if the news is deemed very important and is first approved by top Broadcasting Authority officials.

The authority's board of directors decided on this procedure yesterday, following the controversary a few weeks ago over a report that an unnamed "prominent official" in the Carter administration told "an Israeli official" that Prime Minister Begin must be replaced if peace negotiations are to succeed. Following the broadcast of the story, which was reported by radio's diplomatic correspondent Shalom Qital, Israeli politicians demanded to know the source of the item and American officials denied it was true.

The board agreed that unattributed stories may be broadcast by Israel Radio or TV only when they are of more than limited public interest. The authority's director-general and the director of either TV or radio must grant prior approval to such broadcasts. In the Qital case, the report was not approved beforehand by top authority officials, but only by news department heads.

In a memorandum to the board, Director-General Yizhaq Livni stated that he checked the story afterwards and found it accurate, with a total of four sources testifying to the story's veracity.

Authority Chairman Re'uven Yaron stated that quoting unnamed sources is often a necessary journalistic practice. He said, however, that the name of the reporters handling the story should be given along with the story, and care must be taken to prevent false reports from being presented as news.

NEW LABOR PARTY GROUP FORMING AROUND PERES

TA141459Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT Weekend Supplement in Hebrew 14 Apr 78 p 5 TA

[Text] A new forum has been forming in the Labor Party. We still do not have a name for that forum, and its trends are unclear. It can only be surmised that this is a framework striving to crystallize a new leadership for the party, or, to be more precise, to strengthen Shim'on Peres's leadership.

Among the members of the forum are Abba Eban, Shelomo Hillel, Gad Ya'aqobi, Hayyim Bar-Lev, Moshe Shahal, 'Uzzi Bar'am, Eliyhu Speiser and Dov Ben Me'ir. This group has so far held more than five meetings, some of them in Peres's office and some in private homes. All that can be said about these meetings is that they involved discussions on the way to save the party and to strengthen it, and that positions which were later adopted as the party's official positions were consolidated.

Thus, for example, one of the forum's meetings took place immediately upon the return of some of its members from the welcoming ceremony for the prime minister at Ben'Gurion Airport when he returned from his latest visit to Washington. The meeting was held in Peres's office and it decided on the party's reaction to the government's policy, in light of Begin's failure in his meeting with Carter.

On the surface, this is not new organizational activity, but just routine meetings of people who hold similar opinions. However, in view of the vigorous denials of some of the forum's members concerning the very existence of the meetings, it can be surmised that its members do not regard the meetings as being that innocent.

Much can be learned from looking at who attends the meetings, and no less can be gathered from learning who does not attend. The entire veteran top leadership was not invited (if it still exists and can still be called the veteran top leadership), from Golda down to Rabinowitz. Similarly excluded were Ahdut Ha'avoda members, members of the Moshav Movement and of the Young Guard. Neither does the group include well-known Rabin people (apart from Bar-Lev, who has lately grown decidedly closer to Peres, and Shamal, who is also a former Rabin man who has grown closer to Peres). The participation of the Tel Aviv and Jerusalem district chairmen (Speiser and Bar'am) and the Haifa man (Shahal) shows the power positions which have lately been consolidated around Peres.

The report on the very existence of the forum throws light on other recent events as well. Thus, for example, Peres has long striven to give Bar-Lev the post of coordinator between the various bodies in the party, under the title of "party secretary," "chairman of the secretariat," or "deputy chairman." There is practically no doubt that the idea to appoint Bar-Lev to this office has been raised at one of the forum meeting. At this point things are still in their early stages, but it seems that the forum indicates the strengthening of the status of Peres.

WEIZMAN, WALDHEIM DISCUSS MIDDLE EAST SITUATION

TA171813Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 17 Apr 78 TA

[Excerpt] UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim this evening held a 1-hour talk with the defense minister in his office in Tel Aviv. He was accompanied by the chief of the UN staff in Jerusalem, General Siilasvuo. After the meeting Waldheim said that it was a very useful meeting in which all aspects of Security Council Resolution 425 were discussed. Waldheim announced that it had been agreed that General Siilasvuo would meet with Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Eytan tomorrow morning to discuss the military situation in southern Lebanon and the implementation of Resolution 425.

In reply to correspondents' questions about the Israeli prisoner and the bodies of the four soldiers in terrorist hands Waldehim said that the issue had been discussed and that it would be dealt with. He said that he cannot add anything further to what he already said, but he pointed out that he is trying to be helpful on this issue as well.

Tomorrow Waldheim will consult with the prime minister and with the foreign minister and will later leave for a tour of southern Lebanon. Tomorrow evening he will meet for a second time with the defense minister prior to leaving the country.

Dayan Meets With Waldheim

TA180918Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 18 Apr 78 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said after his meeting with the UN secretary general that an understanding between Israel and Dr Waldheim on the pace of the withdrawal of our forces from southern Lebanon is attainable. The talk was constructive and good. Mr Dayan told our correspondent Razi Barqa'i that the issue of the Israeli prisoner in terrorist hands and the return of four of our soldiers' bodies was not discussed because it was discussed in the meeting between the UN secretary general and the defense minister. Dr. Waldheim said that the talk was good and opinions on the political situation in the Middle East were exchanged. At the same time, he pointed out, a timetable for the IDF's withdrawal from southern Lebanon has not yet been determined. This issue, as well as the technical aspects of the withdrawal, were discussed in a meeting between Chief of Staff Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan and the commander of the UN forces in the region. Dr Waldheim is now meeting with Prime Minister Menahem Begin.

IRAN, USSR SIGN AGREEMENT ON PIPELINE

LD171602Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 17 Apr 78 LD

[Text] An agreement on the construction of Iran's second gas trunkline, from Kuh-e Namak to Astara, was signed and copies exchanged today between the National Iranian Gas Company and the Soviet petroleum company. Under the agreement, the implementation of the project will begin at once and construction work is scheduled to be completed by 23 September 1980. Iranian natural gas will be pumped through the second Iranian gas trunkline from Bahman to Czechoslovakia, Austria, the FRG and France via the Soviet Union.

The signing ceremony was attended by Mr Sorokin, Soviet deputy minister of the gas industry, who described the new agreement as yet another step toward further strengthening the friendly relations and all-round cooperation between the Soviet Union and Iran.

The agreement was concluded following the agreement on economic and technical cooperation signed in Teheran last week between Mr Mohammad Yeganeh, Iran's minister of economics and finance, and Mr Semen Skachkov, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations under the USSR Council of Ministers.

TEHERAN JOURNAL SAYS OIL GIANTS SUPPORT U.S. DOLLAR

LD171420Y Teheran PARS in English 1037 GMT 17 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Teheran, April 17 PANA (PARS News Agency)--In a feature article on Sunday April 16th, the English language morning newspaper TEHERAN JOURNAL said that:

Iran is keeping a low profile on its attitude to the dollar, judged by reports in the world press which go on crediting, or discrediting, Saudi Arabia with holding the whip as far as oil exporting countries are concerned. In point of fact, however, Iran has pursued an extremely sensible and cautious policy of not rocking the U.S. boat at this critical juncture.

Fortunately, the policies of the two oil giants, Saudi Arabia and Iran, are similar in regard to the dollar. Had it not been so, the dollar would have been in a worse battered shape. Thanks to the confidence of these two countries, the dollar's woes are still considered the world over as transitory. The dollar, with all its decline, continues to be dominant as the international currency.

An Iranian Government spokesman has said that this country is not particularly concerned with the slide of the greenback. He said the dealings of Iran were for the better part in the U.S., itself, and that bills were paid in dollars, without affecting their purchasing capacity. This is, of course, only partly true, the larger picture being Iran's desire to ensure stability in the [international] monetary system by propping up the dollar.

Iran has in the last few months refused to increase the par value of the rial against the dollar, which would have come about in the normal fluctuation. The purpose behind this is not clear but the surmise would be that it is another step in favour of expressing confidence in the dollar.

The solid support of Iran and Saudi Arabia has been crucial for the Carter administration's policy. If these two countries were to talk of increasing the price of oil to compensate for the fall in the dollar's value, the results for the U.S. economy, and of the world in general, would be disastrous. It's a tribute to the statesmanship and sense of responsibility displayed by Iran and its neighbor that they have refused to panic and are even prepared to absorb the losses.

As is well known, the holdings of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries in dollars, U.S. Government bonds and securities is substantial. Some bankers estimate it at 200 billion dollars in all. This is a staggering amount. What happens to these holdings is largely determined by Iran and Saudi Arabia. If they were to look for short term gains and start selling them, to transfer their holdings into another currency, the situation in stock markets the world over would be chaotic.

Some sections of the American public have expressed concern over it. No less a person than former Vice President Nelson Rockefeller has been attributed with the statement that if these holdings were withdrawn, it would be the end of the dollar and the existing monetary system. Rockefeller is now trying to chain the petrodollars in long term investments instead of short term holdings.

But these fears are unfounded. No such move has been made by the two oil giants. As further evidence of their consistent policy, they have managed to postpone the Geneva meeting of the OPEC ministers which would most certainly have brought up the dollar as the main subject of concern. The meeting (?and) the discussion itself would have driven the dollar further down in the stock markets.

Critics who once unfairly accused Iran of playing the hawk in increasing oil prices must now weigh their words against this extremely responsible policy. Indeed, the oil giants have shown a greater faith in the U.S. economy and the [word indistinct] strength of the dollar than allies like West Germany and Japan.

For instance, other members of OPEC are anxious to drop the dollar as the currency of payment for oil. They have suggested linking the oil price to a basket of currencies. If not, they want raising the price to offset the loss in dollar value. In the short term, these steps would no doubt be beneficial, but Iran and Saudi Arabia refused to budge.

Compare it to the refusal of West Germany and Japan to stimulate their economies more vigorously, as demanded by the Americans. Bonn and Tokyo have not made any sacrifice to break the slide of the dollar. Even their declared rates of growth look now to be in doubt. Neither West Germany nor Japan would be in their present state of prosperity if the U.S. economy were as self-centered as theirs. Even today, the rate of growth of the U.S. economy is the highest of all.

The oil giants have proved that they do not have such an inward looking policy. The U.S. policy of vigorous growth, no barriers to trade and free flow of foreign exchange, naturally evokes confidence in other countries. The U.S. could have tried to adjust its trade balance by putting up trade barriers. It did not, despite heavy domestic pressure, while countries of the European Economic Community have gone ahead with restricting imports from developing countries. The U.S. has put up one of its rare barriers against Japan, and that after consultations and negotiations. The EEC was callous toward developing countries, which it knew had much greater problems with deficit in balance of payments than its own.

The two big oil exporters have also displayed their concern for other developing countries by refusing the raise the price of oil during 1978. The hardest hit would be the non-oil developing nations. Premier Jamshid Amuzegar has made it clear in his budget speech that as far as Iran is concerned the policy of freezing prices through 1978 stays. U.S. Treasury Secretary Michael Blumenthal has made it amply clear in a recent interview that the oil exporting giants have made no attempt to coerce his government into selling arms against the assurance of their continued confidence in the dollar. This is a clear rebuff to anyone who might be linking the financial policy of the leaders of OPEC with arms purchases. There is little doubt that the greenback will bounce back. A major factor in triggering its bounce would be the confidence reposed in it by Iran and Saudi Arabia.

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